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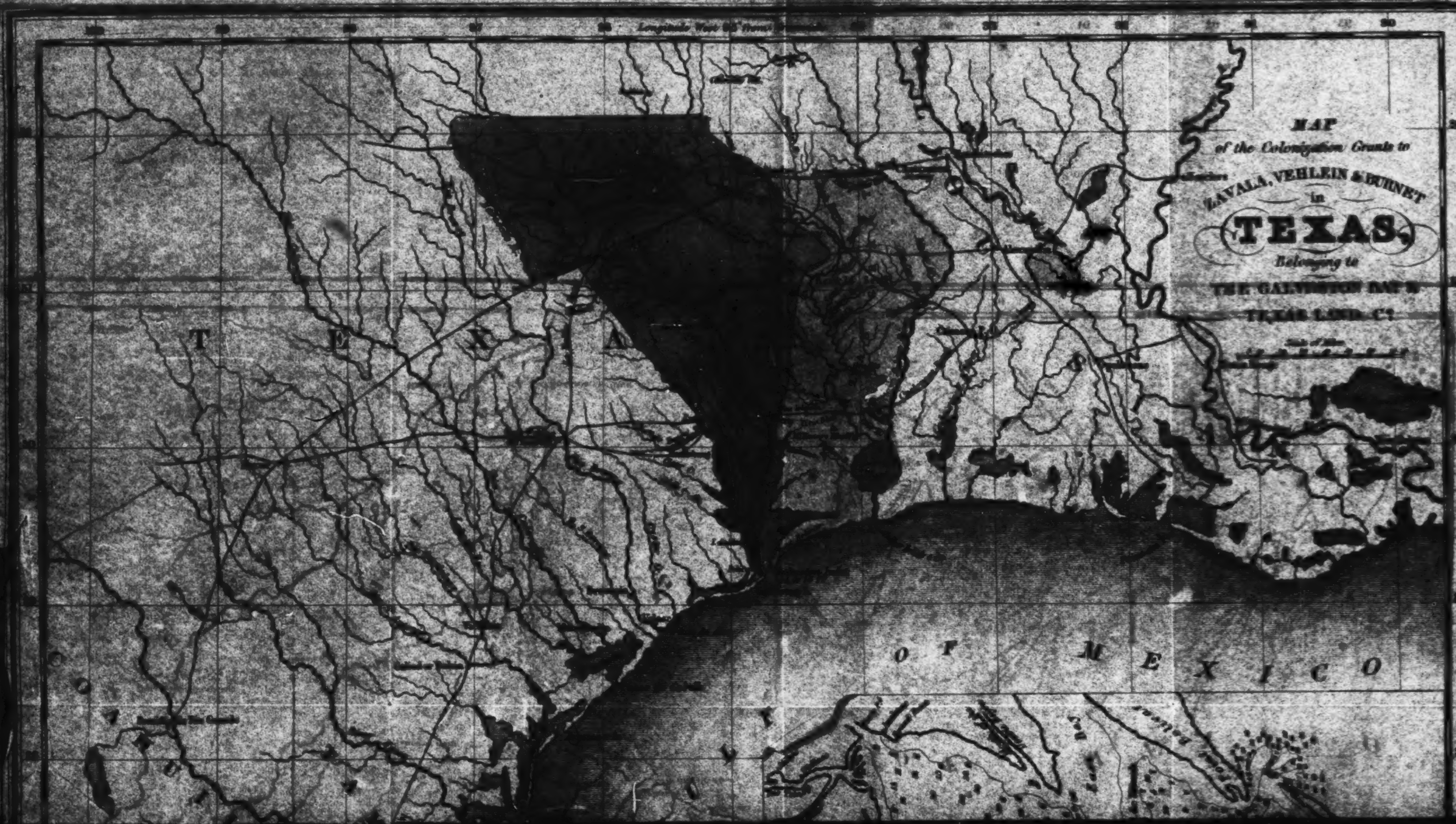
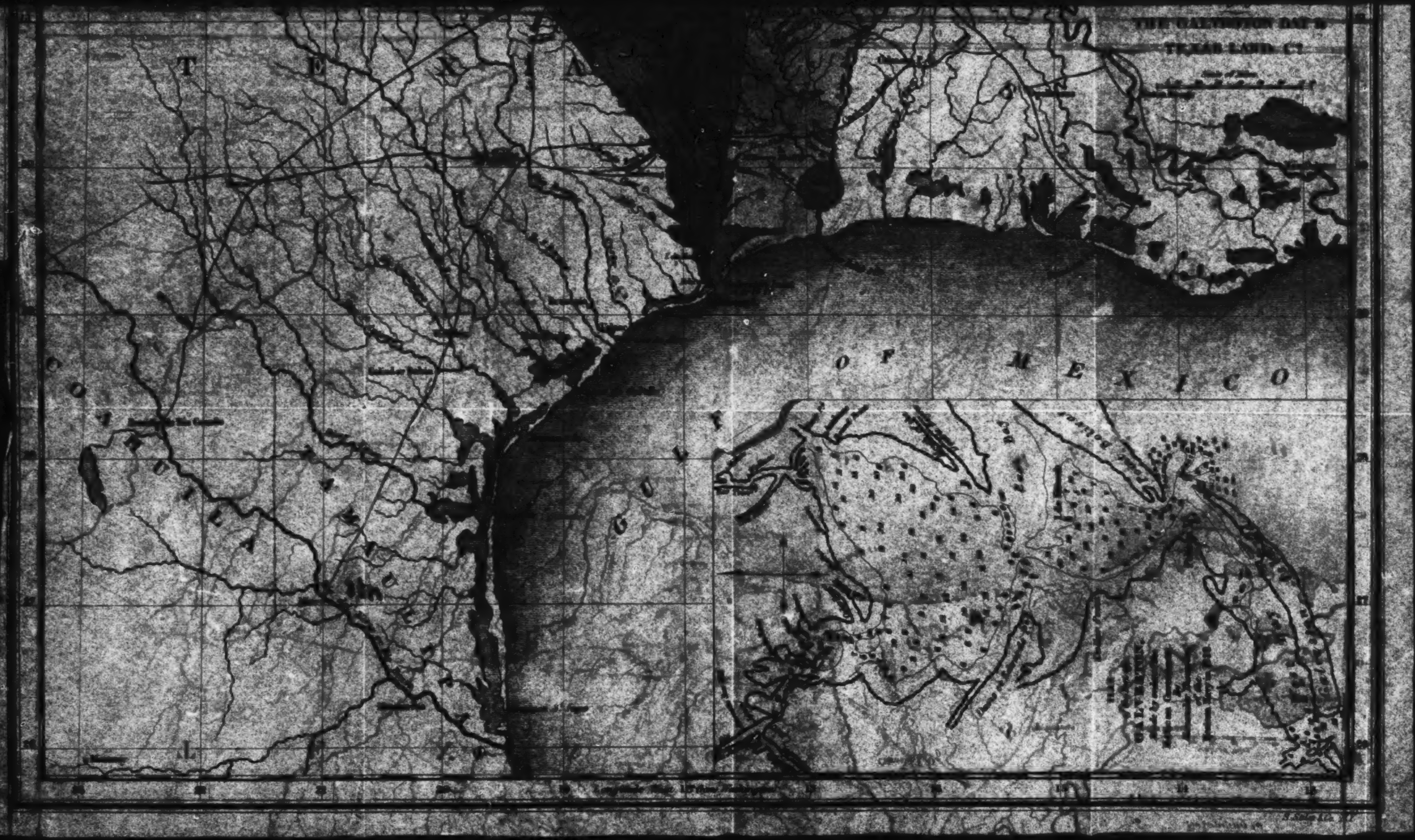

MAP
of the Colonization Grants to
ZAVALA, VEHLEIN & BURNET
in
TEXAS,
Belonging to
THE GALVESTON BAY &
TEXAS LAND Cº
T E X A S
OF MEXICO
C O A H U I


THE GALVESTON BAY &
TEXAS LAND Cº
TEXAS
COAHUILA
GULF OF MEXICO

GUIDE

TO

TEXAS EMIGRANTS.

BY DAVID WOODMAN, Jr.

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY M. HAWES, FOR THE PUBLISHERS,
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INTRODUCTION.

The Compiler issues this book for the simple purpose expressed in its title, as a *Guide to Texas Emigrants.* He has sought information from all sources, has obtained from the parties interested much valuable information, and many late original letters; and, as strongly corroborative of the views these exhibit, he has quoted the opinions of eminent statesmen in the public debates in Congress, and of a late British minister at the Mexican court. The opinions thus expressed cannot originate in interest or partiality: they will have their due weight with the reader.

At the risk of repetition, which could not well be avoided, in the mode adopted, the Compiler has extracted from the newspapers printed in the various sections of this extended empire, for four years past, the opinions of all the travellers whose communications were thought worthy of public notice. Notwithstanding the diverse sources, the reader will find a general concurrence in the opinions of all the writers in favor of the climate, fertility and productiveness of the soil of a country which is destined soon to become the home of millions. Occasional remarks for the correction of manifest errors in some of these were due from the Compiler, to prevent the reader from being misled by erroneous information. No one can dissolve his connexion with the place of his nativity, and take up a residence in a new country, without great sacrifices; and it is to enable every one to judge for himself, whether the inducements held out are sufficient to warrant that sacrifice on his part, that this compilation of all the facts which could be collected is presented.

The Texas lies in the temperate zone; and the extremes of heat and cold, and of long days and nights, which New Englanders suffer under, are there unknown. This will be seen by the Meteorological Journal, published at the end of the book. The difference between the condition of the farmers in New England and Texas may be summed up in a few words. Here, the owner is at work for the support of his beasts the whole year round; and there, the cattle are at work the whole time for the profit of the owner. There, the cattle are the slaves of their master; and here, the master is the slave of his beasts.

Many of the extracts have a general reference to the whole of Texas, while others relate solely to the condition of the Galveston Bay Company's Grants. The colonization of these has just commenced, no commissioner of titles having been appointed and prepared to act, until the 9th of September last. But as these grants lie on the borders of the United

States, it is probable they will have the preference of the first emigrants, over all others. The select lands in Austin's front grant have generally passed into second hands. The other grants in the rear will soon receive their portion of population, which passes from the front into the interior with a regular and steady step, driving back the herds of mustangs, buffaloes and Indians, with a rapidity without a parallel in the North American States.

There is one preliminary question which must be answered, or the reader, when reflecting on the beautiful country which is presented to his notice in the following pages, will be constantly puzzled with the inquiry,—why, if all this is true, have we never known it before? The answer is plain and simple: Until Mexico declared her independence of Spain in 1823, the policy of Spain, through jealousy that her mines would become the object of foreign cupidity, was to drive every stranger out of the country who entered it, even at the point of the bayonet; while, since the sovereignty of Mexico has become established over it, the opposite policy has prevailed, and, instead of incommoding foreigners, she invites, calls, protects, and rewards them with a liberal hand. But however favorable the view of the country which the following sheets exhibit, still caution and premeditation must be given to the subject, before the colonist engages in an undertaking which without it, may be attended with disappointment, if nothing more. The Compiler begs the reader will reflect on the words of wisdom which Mrs. Holley has given, in the form of advice to emigrants, and with this he will conclude his introductory remarks, that every one may judge for himself of the facts.

"Emigration is often undertaken with expectations so vague and preposterous, that disappointment, if not ruin, is the inevitable consequence. Not more unreasonable were the emigrants of the early history of America, who expected to find streets paved with gold, because that metal abounds in the mines of Mexico and Peru, than are those individuals of the present day, who, escaping from confinement and poverty in the northern cities of America, or from the slavery and wretchedness of the crowded and oppressed communities of Europe, complain of their disappointments in Texas, because, forsooth, they do not find in Brazoria and San Felipe the Philadelphia market, and streets lighted with gas. Such persons would do well to ask themselves, in what part of the world they can get land for nothing?—where obtain so many enjoyments with so little labor?—what region combines every good?

"The idle and the vicious, as it happens every where, will be sure to be disappointed in Texas. Like the hero of Milton, such characters carry their discontent with them.

"A soil that yields the fruits of nearly every latitude, almost spontaneously, with a climate of perpetual summer, must, like that of other countries, have a seed-time and a harvest. Though the land be literally flowing with milk and honey, yet the cows must be milked, and the honey must be gathered. Houses must be built, and enclosures made. The deer must be hunted, and the fish must be caught. From the primeval curse, that in the sweat of his brow man shall eat bread, though its severity be mollified, there is no exemption, even here. The emigrant should bear in mind, that, in a new community, *labor* is the most valuable commodity. He sees about him all the means for supplying, not only the necessaries, but also the comforts and luxuries of life. It is his part to apply them to his use. He is abundantly furnished with the raw materials; but his hand must mould them into the forms of art."

GUIDE TO EMIGRANTS.

[The introductory remarks to the Pamphlet which was published by the Trustees of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, in January, 1831, have been found so full of information upon the most interesting points of inquiry, that I have thought I could not do a better service than by extending its very limited circulation, and making it the text for such comments upon the present condition of the country as the change of its circumstances and restrictions require. Facts not novelties, truths not speculations, are the objects of this publication, and these will be derived from the most authentic sources.]—COM.

TEXAS, is situated on the Gulf of Mexico, between the United States and the Rio del Norte, and lying principally between the 28th and 35th degrees of north latitude, and the 94th and 103d parallels of west longitude, contains about 160 millions of acres. This country was first made an object of public attentention in the United States, by the discussions in Congress and the newspapers relating to the purchase of

Florida. It was by the treaty of cession of that country, that the boundaries of Louisiana were fixed between the Spanish territory and the United States; and, by many acquainted with its advantages, it was thought that the most healthy and fertile tract of land in North America was sacrificed to the acquisition of Florida, which, from every other than its local situation, was then thought, as it has since been found to be, of inferior value to that for which it was surrendered. In 1819, however, the relinquishment of Texas, considered at that time as an integral part of Louisiana, was comparatively no loss to those who already possessed more land than they could settle, and who had then but little knowledge of its intrinsic and local advantages, as they have been laid open by the Republican Government of Mexico, since its emancipation from the enthralling yoke of Spanish despotism. The influence of free constitutions and of wise laws has seldom been more perfectly illustrated than in the sudden developement of the resources and advantages which this fertile country now exhibits.*

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* It was but a year or two after our relinquishment of Texas was made to Spain, that Mexico declared her independence of the mother country; and it now is no political secret, so rapidly did Texas rise in importance, that Mr. Poinset, the first minister sent from the United States to Mexico, was instructed by Mr. Adams to open a negotiation for its purchase. The present administration see the importance of its reannexation to the United States, on account of its strength as a military position, commanding the mouth of the Mississippi. Its situation between the Arkansas Territory and the Gulf of Mexico, gives its acquisition a great

The Spanish government, so long as it maintained its sovereignty in America, not only absolutely prohibited the settlement of foreigners upon the frontier provinces of its possessions, but even discouraged its own subjects from occupying the lands which now present such great temptations to farmers, mechanics, and manufacturers.

Immediately after the dissolution of its connexion with Spain, Mexico began to follow the bright example set by their northern neighbors of the United States, who, from a liberal course of policy in granting the public lands to enterprising settlers, in the short space of twenty years, have erected several states and territories, of the most industrious population, out of the region which would still have been

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local importance; and it requires not the aid of prophecy to see that the pacific character of the southern Indians might be entirely changed, should Texas fall into other hands, and the half civilized and dependent tribes of our south-western frontier turned into ferocious hordes. Whenever the people of Texas petition for it, there is no doubt a recession of Texas will be made. Mexico is not strong enough to retain it against their will; and it cannot be supposed that the government of that country will expend its almost exhausted resources in a vain attempt to hold it, when it can easily replenish its treasury by acceding to the wishes of its inhabitants. As no such petitions have been presented, it is fair to infer that the people are as well satisfied under the republican system of Mexico, as they had been under that of the United States, which are so similar in point of form and administration, as not easily to be distinguished. Indeed, so long as the present Tariff of Mexico continues to protect with such high duties the industry of its citizens, a change can hardly be desired by them.

called the wilderness of Louisiana, if it had remained under the Spanish yoke. It was not, however, until the general prevalence of those republican principles which led to the establishment of the Federal Constitution of Mexico, in 1824, that the proverbial jealousy of foreigners, for which the Spanish nation has always been celebrated, gave way to the liberal policy of the free governments of modern times, which teaches that the freemen of all countries are patriots, wherever their destinies fix, or their interests call them. Seeing the advantage which the United States of the North had derived, both in agriculture and the arts, from the admission of the subjects of all the nations of the earth among them, and the great accession to the national strength which their rapid emigration had made, the National Congress of Mexico passed laws for the distribution of its uninhabited tracts among such citizens and foreigners as should choose to occupy them, and offered to those who would contract to settle the same according to the laws, a perfect guaranty of their contracts with settlers, wherever they should be made, and a liberal allowance of premium lands to themselves, for engaging in an undertaking so likely to advance the national strength and prosperity.

It was under these laws that the grants to Zavala Vehlien and Burnet were made; and it is by them, and the terms of the grants themselves, that the rights and duties of the Empresarios, (contractors,) and those who hold under them, are fixed. As these grants differ essentially, in their forms, from the patents of Great Britain, under which her American colonies were settled, and of the United States, it is thought advisable by those who have connected themselves with the Empresarios in this undertaking, that not only the contracts of those Empresarios with their government and with their associates, should be fully set forth, but also the laws of Mexico, regulating the colonization of her territory, so that the nature and extent of their titles, duties and obligations might be fully understood, before engagements are made to become the subjects of a government, which extends to those who accept its proffered privileges and advantages, terms of unequaled liberality. So great are the temptations which these grants offer, and such the prevailing disposition of the oppressed population of Europe to emigrate to those countries west of the Atlantic, which offer equality of privilege to the honest and industrious of all nations, that several persons purchased a large interest in them, and formed the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, of which the original Empresarios are members, each of the associates of which has the responsibility and advantage resulting from the number of shares he holds; and they have chosen a Board of seven Directors, and appointed three persons to act as their Trustees and Attorneys in carrying on the enterprise. The disposition of the government, judging from the spirit of its laws, is to protect the settler in his possession which the contractor authorizes him to receive, but the title to which, with the contractor's consent, he receives immediately from the commissioner of the government itself. Let the contract result as it may, however, the colonist possessing the proper requisites, and holding the scrip of the Company consenting to his settlement within the limits of their grants, will see the perfect security which is given to his rights and possessions by the colonization laws, and cannot doubt that he will be treated with good faith; for whether the Empresarios perform the entire condition of the grants or not, those who settle under them are always faithfully guaranteed by the government in their possessions.

The object of Mexico is to populate her uninhabited territory, and while good policy requires that she should continue to afford such encouragements to Empresarios as will engage the most able and enterprising to forward her views, yet it is plainly seen, by the terms of the grants, that, let the contractor come out as he will, the honest and industrious settler is always safe in the title the government has conferred upon him.

[*As the Directors and Trustees of the Company have heretofore published all the colonization laws of Mexico and of the State of Coahuila and Texas, in which their grants lie, with a view to the information of their associates, as well as to enable those who are disposed to become colonists, to judge for themselves of the expediency of so doing, it is unnecessary to advert to any of the particular clauses or principles of these laws, otherwise than as it will more particularly direct the attention of the reader to them, and as it will serve for an explanation of some of the articles which relate to government lands not granted to any Empresario. Into these, any person, Mexican or foreigner, having the requisite qualifications, may at once enter and engage in his farming or mechanical* *pursuits, with a guaranty of the government, that he shall receive the quantity of land in the country, or lots in a town, which the law allows to a person of his occupation. But as most of the lands which are worth having, are already under contract, there is no necessity of commenting on those clauses which do not relate to Empresario contracts. Nor is it needful to remark upon the provisions of the law of the 6th of April, 1830, which, from a jealousy that the great influx of Americans into Texas was with a view to wrest that delightful territory from its rightful owners, prohibited their entrance as settlers, as that law was repealed in the spring of 1834, so that the door of emigration is now opened as wide to emigrants from the United States as to those of all other countries.*]—COMPILER.

To show the desire of the government and spirit of its laws, it will be useful, however, to call the attention of the reader to the first article of the National Colonization Law of the 18th August, 1824, wherein "*the Mexican nation offers to foreigners who come to establish themselves within its territory, security for their persons and property, provided they subject themselves to the laws of the country;*" to the 7th article, in which the Congress interdicts its own authority to prohibit the entrance of any foreigner as a colonist, unless imperious circumstances should require it, with respect to the individuals of a particular nation; to the 14th, which guarantees the contract the Empresarios make with their colonists; and to the 15th, which prohibits any person from holding lands acquired under this law, who does not live within the limits of the republic.

The principles of the permanent national colonization law of 1824, the reader will perceive, are fully met by the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas; and such inducements are held out to settlers and contractors, in their State law of the 24th March, 1825, as it was thought would have the effect of inducing the immediate emigration of foreigners into its territories.

The preamble and first section of this law set forth the desire of the government, in language calculated to induce the highest confidence; the interest of the State guarantees its design, and both are re-assured by the Castillian honor of the nation, which uses the terms in which it is couched. The introductory words are,

"The *Constituent Congress* of the free, independent, and *sovereign State* of Coahuila and Texas, desiring by every possible means to augment the population of its territory, promote the cultivation of its fertile lands, the raising and multiplication of stock, and the progress of the arts and commerce, and being governed by the Constitutional Act, the Federal Constitution, and the basis established by the National Decree of the General Congress, No. 72, have thought proper to decree the following Law of Colonization:

"Article 1. All foreigners, who, in virtue of the general law of the 18th of August, 1824, which guarantees the security of the persons and property in the territory of the Mexican nation, wish to remove to any of the settlements of the State of Coahuila and Texas, are at liberty so to do, and the said State invites and calls them." The 2d article assures those who do so, that, instead of being incommoded (referring probably to the inconvenience settlers suffered when the State was under the Spanish dominion), they should be freely permitted to follow any branch of industry they think proper. The 3d and 4th articles permit any foreigner, then in the State, to domiciliate himself, by making a declaration to that effect to the municipal authority; and, in one year after acquiring his land, by taking the oath to support the constitution, he becomes a naturalized citizen.

Articles 8 and 9 authorize the making of contracts for colonization, such as those this Company hold, and repeats the guaranty of the National Government, regarding the contracts made by the Empresarios with the families brought on at their own expense.

Article 22 provides that the new settlers, as an acknowledgment, shall pay to the state, for each *sitio* of 4428 acres of pasture land, thirty dollars; two dollars and a half for each *labor*, without the facility of irrigation; and three dollars and a half for each one that can be irrigated, and so on proportionally, according to the quantity and quality of the land distributed; but the said payments need not be made until six years after the settlement, and by thirds; the first within four years, the second within five years, and the last within six years, under the penalty of losing the land, for a failure in any of said payments. The law also provides that the settlers shall pay the surveyor's fee, and for the stamp papers upon which their titles are conveyed. Other than these, it is not perceived that any taxes or contributions are required, by the laws, of the new settlers, except such as all enterprising and moral families would naturally impose on themselves for the support of ferries, schools, and public worship; but, on the contrary, the 32d article makes the following extremely liberal and encouraging provision:

"During the first *ten years*, counting from the day on which the new settlements may have been established, they shall be free from all taxes and contributions, of whatever denomination, with the exception of those which, in case of invasion by an enemy, or to prevent it, are generally imposed. And all the produce of agriculture or industry of the new settlers shall be free from excise or other duties, throughout every part of the State (with the exception of the duties for working the mines.) After the termination of that time, the new settlements shall be on the same footing, as to taxes, with the old ones; and the colonists shall also, in this particular, be on the same footing with the other inhabitants of the State."

The laws go further, and, besides granting exemption to the settlers from taxes and duties upon articles imported for their own use, in the 42d article, allows the exercise of a *freeman's privilege to foreigners*, by making them "eligible to elect the members of their municipal authorities, and to be elected to the same."

Article 46 provides that the law shall be published in all the villages of the State, communicated to the Legislatures of the other States, and to the General Congress, that the same may be generally circulated abroad, through its ambassadors, to foreign nations. Thus the government has pledged itself, in the most solemn manner, to the world, to fulfil the engagements which the laws hold forth.

In addition to the provisions contained in the laws, the Land Commissioner's instructions, prepared under the direction of the Legislature, provide that it shall be the duty of the Commissioner not to issue titles but to such as Empresarios introduce, but to examine the recommendations which the new settlers shall produce from the local authorities of the place they shall have removed from, certifying of their moral character and steady habits; and then goes on and points out the mode in which deeds are to be obtained by the settlers, as follows:

"The Commissioners shall issue, in the name of the State, the titles for land, in conformity with the law, and put the new colonists in possession of their lands with all legal formalities, and the previous citation of adjoining proprietors, should there be any."

It will be expected, perhaps, that some information should be given of the form and powers of the Government, which exercises jurisdiction over the territory in question. Of this, to citizens of the United States, it would perhaps be enough to say, that it is modelled on their own; but to Europeans, it may be necessary to add, that Mexico consists of eighteen separate States, and five Territories, united under one general government or federal head. Its form is republican representative. It consists of an executive, called the President, chosen for four years, and not re-eligible until after the expiration of four years more; of an independent judiciary, and a legislature of two branches.

"The faculties of the General Congress are to sustain the national independence, and provide for the national security, and preservation of its exterior relations; to preserve the federal union of the States, and the peace and public order of the interior of the federation; to maintain the independence of the States among themselves, and to sustain their proportional equality of obligations and rights; and, generally, it has power to conduct and manage all the exterior relations of the country."

"The powers of the STATE Government of Coahuila and Texas are vested in a governor, legislature and judiciary, similar to those of the United States of North America, and arise, among others, from the following preliminary dispositions.

"Every man who inhabits the territory of the State, although he be in transit, shall enjoy the imprescriptible rights of liberty, security, property and equality; and it is the duty of the State to conserve and protect, by wise and equitable laws, those general rights of mankind."

"It is also an obligation on the State to protect all its inhabitants in the right which they have to write, print and publish freely their thoughts and political opinions, without the necessity of examination, revision or censure, anterior to their publication."

"In this State, no person shall be born a slave, neither will the introduction of slaves be permitted, under any pretext."

"Foreigners who are actually and legally domiciliated in the State, are citizens, whatever may have been the country of their nativity."

Provision is made in the Constitution, that "every inhabitant of the State can terminate his differences, be the state of the case what it may, by the medium of arbitrators, or in any other extra-judicial manner; and all agreements to arbitrate shall be religiously observed." In most cases, no suit in writing can be maintained, until an amicable settlement shall first be attempted in the form prescribed by law.

[*By a recent law, a judicial circuit is established, comprehending the Galveston Bay Company's grants; the trial by jury, in all cases, civil and criminal, is provided for, in which eight out of twelve, or two thirds of the jurors, give a verdict; and all the proceedings of the courts are recorded in English. This law is now in full operation, under the administration of a lawyer of eminence (Thomas Jefferson Chambers) formerly an American citizen.*—COM.]

Public Instruction is predicated upon the following basis: "In all the towns of the State, there shall be established a competent number of common schools, in which there shall be taught reading, writing and ciphering; the catechism of the Christian religion, a short and simple explanation of the Constitution, and the general one of the republic; the rights and duties of man in society, and that which can conduce to the better education of youth."

[*The national religion is the Catholic; but a late law of the State allows both religious and political toleration, provided the public order is not disturbed thereby.*—COM.]

"The method of instruction shall be uniform throughout the State, and in those places where it may be necessary, there shall be institutions of learning more suitable for disseminating public instruction in the *useful arts and sciences.*"

Having thus briefly alluded to the principles and form of the Mexican governments, (so similar to the republican institutions of the United States of North America), and to the colonization laws, so encouraging in their terms and provisions to the new colonists, in which the reader will perceive that the monopoly of great proprietors is fully guarded against, and the security of actual settlers completely guaranteed, it becomes necessary that the *local advantages* which the country, now for the first time opened for the public consideration, possesses, should receive a passing notice.

The first object to an emigrant is the facility of transporting himself and his family to his new location. In this respect, Texas has greatly the advantage. He who seeks a support in Illinois, Indiana or Missouri, has either to cross the Alleghany mountains by land, or, upon leaving the Atlantic, to ascend the North river to Albany, and there change his baggage from the sloop to the canal-boat, and follow its dilatory progress to Buffalo. There he changes again to the steamboat on lake Erie for Cleveland, and then crosses through Ohio, two hundred miles, by land or the canal-boat, to that river. Descending it by the steamboats, he comes to the State containing the land he proposes to settle on. He lands on its shores, and, following its miry roads into the interior as far as they extend, is then obliged to abandon all vehicles of transportation, and those trifling articles of comfort he had brought thus far, and, with his pack on his back, and his wife and children at his heels, he travels on ſoot, not only beyond all improvements, but far beyond all places where speedy settlements had been anticipated by the speculator in public lands. Thus, alone, in the midst of the deepest forest, he hears the hundred echoes of his axe upon his log-house tree, uncertain whether a white man or a savage will be startled by its sound. There, for years, he waits the progress of civilization, wanting every thing else but corn, which he offers at twelve and sometimes at ten cents a bushel, before he can find a purchaser, instead of finding a ready market at $5 a barrel. Indolence and ignorance are thus often induced, and intemperance and misery, their necessary attendants, follow in their train.

Look, on the other hand, to the facilities which the emigrant to Texas possesses, either from Europe or the Atlantic States of the North, where he embarks. He takes passage in some empty freighting vessel, and for a trifling amount, say $10, or $12 besides his provisions, is transported to New Orleans, or direct to Galveston Bay, with all his family, furniture, tools, clothing, and provisions for the first season; thence he ascends one of the rivers in a boat which carries all his baggage to the very spot, or within a short distance of it, upon which the habitation of temperance and industry is soon to be erected. All the articles of household furniture which he brought with him, but which the settler of the West had to leave behind, or abandon on the road, are placed in their proper relations of his new dwelling, and from their familiarity to the eye, and the pleasant associations they create, are almost worshiped by its inmates, as were the household idols of the heathen. No sturdy forest here for months defies the axe, but smiling prairies invite the plough. Here no bumble prices reduce the stimulus to labor, but the reward of industry is so ample as to furnish the greatest incentive to exertion. Here the rivers are highways, on which the ascending boats of families, seeking a location in its delightful climate, meet others returning richly laden with the surplus products of those who had been more fortunate in acquiring an earlier possession on its fruitful soil. Here no settler is held to remain for the want of means to get back, if he becomes dissatisfied with the country; for the frequent arrivals and return of merchant vessels to the ports of New Orleans, Matamoros, Tampico and Vera Cruz, the Atlantic ports of the United States and Europe, enable the settler to obtain constant advices from those friends he left behind, and to return to them again, if their circumstances require, or his own inclination prompts it.

*[For the further facility of emigrants, the Company have contracted with the owners of the steamboat Connecticut, which is advertised to run from New Orleans to Tampico, and back once a fortnight, to stop at the mouth of the Sabine and Galveston Bays, so that the settlers from the United States will be sure of a safe and speedy passage directly to the territory of the Company.—*Com.]*

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* We copy the following article from the New York Courier and Enquirer:

"Steamboat Connecticut. We learn that this substantial and commodious sea boat is preparing for a voyage

Without further comparison, between Texas and the North Western States, it is sufficient to add,

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in the bay of Mexico. In addition to repairs she underwent in the spring, she, last month, was supplied with new masts, spars, sails and rigging, and now, for a safe sea boat, she is not surpassed, if equalled, in the United States. She is advertised to leave here on the 18th inst. for Charleston, Key West and New Orleans. She can take 100 tons light freight, and accommodate from 100 to 250 passengers, having a spacious cabin below, and a ladies' cabin on deck. Capt. Porter, her commander, is a gentleman well known in this community, as an enterprising, active man of business, and a good navigator.

"Various gentlemen in this city and Boston are interested in the boat, whose intended regular voyage is from New Orleans to the Sabine, Galveston Bay, Matamoros and Tampico.

"We have reason to look upon the sailing of the Connecticut as a beginning in the contemplated establishment of a regular line of steamboats from New York to Tampico and Vera Cruz, by the way of Charleston, Havana, New Orleans and Matanzas. By this means, not only the time at present required to carry on an intercourse with the important island of Cuba, and New Orleans, will be much shortened, but also the passage from and to Vera Cruz, which averages some twenty-six days, can then be effected, according to the best calculation, in *thirteen* days. In our opinion, the result of this enterprise will prove profitable to the individuals who wish to promote it, and be obviously advantageous to our commercial community and the city at large, as, independent of the great facilities afforded to our foreign intercourse on this side of the Atlantic, and the consequent increase in the exports and imports of light goods to and from the points we have mentioned above, New York will necessarily become the rendezvous for embarkation of most of the passengers coming from Europe, destined to Havana, New Orleans, Mexico, and *vice versa*.

that the salubrity of the climate and fertility of the soil of the former both admit the cultivation of every staple article produced in all the various latitudes of the United States. The southern parts yield sugar, cotton, rice, tobacco, olives, grapes, oranges, lemons, &c.; and the more northern, cotton, tobacco, indigo, wheat, and other small grains; potatoes, and other vegetables. Indian corn grows luxuriantly all over the country. The cane is said to sweeten a foot and a half higher up than in Louisiana, *and the cotton to be of a longer staple, and so much finer in its texture, as to have a decided preference over the best* Louisiana *in the New Orleans market. This is generally cultivated on the prairies, which are ready to receive the plough without the preparatory expense and delays which are attendant upon clearing woodlands, as in other places.*

The heat in summer is said not to be greater than in New York, but is more equable, while the cold of winter never produces ice that will bear. The cattle of the graziers and stock raisers, pasture out on the prairies all the year, and the owner, instead of being obliged, as in most parts of the United States, to work all summer in providing food for the support of his cattle in winter, receives the benefit of their labor all the year round, or the profit on their increase. In such a climate, the cost of a dwelling is comparatively small; of fuel, trifling; barns are not needed as coverings for cattle, nor are expensive fences necessary, but for the enclosure of cultivated fields, and of such domestic animals as are daily used

In fact, the whole *labor of man* upon a soil free from rocks and sudden hills, and equally productive with that of any State in North-America, is for his own profit and advantage.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY AND RIVERS OF TEXAS.

These attract the notice of all travellers. The banks of the Trinity, San Jacinto, and the Netches, are covered with different kinds of hard wood and pine, and the residue of the country is interspersed with small woodlands, yielding wood for the construction of dwellings and for mechanical uses, without the cost of distant transportation. The land is spoken of as rolling land, something similar to that of New Jersey, and the lower counties of Pennsylvania and Delaware, but is more productive. The Angelina and Attoyac rivers, which run through the centre of the colony, are navigable for steam and keel-boats, while their branches, and the Sabine and San Jacinto rivers on its borders, water the country in all directions. As the banks of the rivers are high, they do not often overflow their limits, leaving those pools of water on the flats, which, in the valley of the Mississippi, soon become the prolific sources of malignant and intermitting fevers. Neither is there a necessity of letting in the rays of the sun suddenly upon the vegetable deposit of ages, by clearing the woods extensively, which is one of the chief causes of the diseases in the western country, as the turning up of the pure loam of the prairies, which has had a similar exposure to the sun's rays for centuries before the knowledge of their existence by man, is not attended with those deleterious effects. But although no reason for especial care is known, as arising from the climate, soil or water, yet, by those rules of common prudence which govern all men, upon any considerable change of climate, those who are about seeking a new location, should adopt the usual precautions for preserving their health by attention to their diet and regimen upon their first arrival, carrying with them such aperient medicines as have been in familiar use in their families.

THE EXISTING POPULATION IS SUCH AS TO DESTROY THE IDEA OF LONELINESS EVEN TO THE FIRST EMIGRANTS.

[*Independently of the town of Nacogdoches, which is in the midst of the Colony, and which has five or six hundred inhabitants, it is supposed there are about seven hundred families settled in other parts of the Company's grants. There are a number of houses at Anahuac, on the Bay, which is not, however, considered as so healthy a place as Liberty, several miles higher up the Trinity river. Nacogdoches is the place where Mr. Nixon, the land commissioner, and Capt. Hotchiss, the agent of the Empresarios, reside, and where the courts are held three times a year, and the records are kept. This town is most easily approached by the main road, which runs from Natchitoches on the Red river, where steamboats from New Orleans arrive daily. But those who land on the coast will find no difficulty of access to it, by following up the settlements on the Trinity river.*—Com.]

Roads. From Natchitoches on the Red river, to which steamboats from New Orleans almost daily arrive, there is an old established road, with ferries across the rivers, passing through Cantonment Jessup to the Sabine, a distance of fifty miles; thence on the northern line of Zavala's grant, sixty miles to Nacogdoches; thence between Vehlein and Burnet's grant, it runs to Bexar, Bahia or Galiod and Matamoros in one direction, and to San Felippe Austin, Harrisburg, Brazoria, Gonzales, Victoria, Matagorda, &c. in others. Some of these are only new settlements, while others are considerable villages. The map also shows a road from New Orleans, in another direction, which runs through Opelousas, and crosses the Trinity in its route to San Felippe Austin, which, from the rapid increase of population in the surrounding colonies, and its central situation, bids fair to become, at on distant period, the capital of the State.

THE PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL, THE CERTAINTY OF A MARKET, AND THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION, are objects of the greatest solicitude to new settlers. Upon this head, Texas challenges all other countries for a comparison of advantages. In addition to the great staples of sugar, cotton, wheat and rice, tobacco is produced abundantly. The restraints upon its culture are removed, so that, instead of being a product of government monopoly, it has now become an article of great commercial value. The grape, of infinite variety, flourishes without care, and the manufacture of wine in the town of Parras, four degrees west of Matamoros, has reached a noticeable extent, both for the quality of the wine and the quantity produced. Indigo is indigenous to Texas, and only wants care to become a valuable export.

[*Honey is collected in great quantities from the wild bees, which suck the sweets of the prairie flowers. White wax fetches a dollar a pound. The mulberry grows in great luxuriance on the rivers, and offers a rich feast to the cultivators who choose to employ their women and children in the production of silk.*

Vast herds of cattle and mules, marked with the owner's initials, are to be seen roaming over the rich prairies, in different parts of Texas. These are of no other cost to the proprietor than that of herding them once or twice a week, to prevent their straying too far from home, and becoming wild.—Hogs are raised in great abundance on the native mast of the country, without trouble to the owner. They multiply rapidly, and may be made a source of great income. In fact, it is believed that no country in the world presents so great temptations to the grazier as the prairies and cane-brakes of Texas afford. Fat cattle fetch a fair price at New Orleans; mules find a ready market in the West Indies, which are within a few days' sail; and the wheat, corn, potatoes, and other crops which are not sold to the new emigrants, command prices far above any which are demanded with us. Provisions of all kinds therefore yield a profit such as no other known region presents.—Com.]

The certainty of a cash market, at high prices, for exports in two days' sail to Matamoros, and four to Tampico and Vera Cruz, and other ports of the republic, where every article of Mexican produce is not only free of duty, but has the protection of a high tariff upon similar productions of the United States and other foreign countries, is a matter of great consideration to settlers in a new country. Besides the above, the all-consuming market of Cuba is also within five days' sail.

These, it is apprehended, are no small advantages to the possession of those who have the facility of water transportation by the numerous rivers which flow through the colony, from almost every quarter of it.

OF THE RELIGION AND MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE.

When Gen. Pike travelled through Texas, in 1807, he observed, "that the religion was Catholic, but much relaxed." As it was at that time, so the Catholic continues to be the established religion of the state, as it is in most of the nations on the continent of Europe, and as the Episcopal is in England. But though the Catholic religion is required to be supported, the laws are tolerant, and there is no persecution for opinion's sake upon that interesting topic, respecting which it is probable there will always be a difference of opinion among mankind. In the old military posts, both the religion and manners of the people are completely Spanish, the hospitable inhabitants freely indulging themselves in habits of indolence and ease, in smoking, music, dancing, horse-racing, and other sports; while the activity, industry, and frugality of the American population are apparent in all the new settlements. It would be difficult, in fact, to reconcile the manners and practices of either the old or new population with the provisions of the laws, without supposing that some of the laws in Mexico, like many in America and in other countries, are not enforced.

[Gen. Pike gives descriptions of the manners and customs of the people in the Mexican cities, which are totally unlike those of the sober inhabitants of Texas, where the American manners prevail. The following extracts will be interesting to the reader, who has not the work to refer to.]

MORALS, MANNERS, &c.

"For hospitality, generosity and sobriety, the people of New Spain exceed any nation, perhaps, on the globe; but in national energy, patriotism, enterprise of character, or independence of soul, they are perhaps the most deficient; yet there are men who have displayed bravery to a surprising degree, and the Europeans who are there, cherish with delight the idea of their gallant ancestry.

"Their women have black eyes and hair, fine teeth, and are generally brunettes. I met but one exception to this rule at Chihuahua, of a fair lady, and she, by way of distinction, was called "the girl with light hair." They are all inclining a little to *enbonpoint*; but none (or few) are elegant figures. Their dress generally is short jackets and petticoats and high heeled shoes, without any head-dress. Over the whole dress, they have a silk wrapper, which they always wear, and, when in the presence of men, affect to bring it over their faces, but from under which you frequently see peeping a large sparkling black eye. As we approached the Atlantic and our frontiers, we saw several ladies who wore the gowns of our countrywomen, which they conceived to be much more elegant than their ancient costume. The lower class of the men are generally dressed in broad brimmed hats, short coats, large waistcoats, and small clothes always open at the knees (owing, as I suppose, to the greater freedom it gives to the limbs on horseback), a kind of leather boot or wrapper bound round the leg (somewhat in the manner of our frontier men's leggings), and gartered on. The boot is of a soft, pliable leather, but not colored. In the eastern provinces the dragoons wear, over this wrapper or boot, a sort of jack-boot made of sole-leather, to which are fastened the spurs by a rivet, the gaffs of which are sometimes near an inch in length; but the spurs of the gentlemen and officers, although clumsy to our ideas, are frequently ornamented with raised silver work on the shoulders, and the strap embroidered with silver and gold thread. They are always ready to mount their horses, on which the inhabitants of the internal provinces spend nearly half the day. This description will apply generally to the dress of all the men of the provinces for the lower class; but in their cities, amongst the more fashionable, they dress after the European or United States modes, with not more variation than we see in our cities from one six months to another.

"Both men and women have remarkably fine hair, and pride themselves in the display of it. Their amusements are music, singing, dancing and gambling. The latter is strictly prohibited, but the prohibition is not much attended to. The females have fine voices, and sing in French, Italian and Spanish, the whole company joining in the chorus.

TRADE, COMMERCE, MANUFACTURES AND REVENUE.

"The trade and commerce of New Spain is carried on with Europe and the United States by the port of Vera Cruz solely, and the East Indies and South America, generally by Acapulco, and, even at these ports, under such restriction, as to productions, manufactures, and time, as to render it of little consequence to the general prosperity of the country. Were all the numerous bays and harbors of the gulfs of Mexico and California opened to the trade of the world, and a general license given to the cultivation of all the productions which the country is capable of, with freedom of exportation and importation, with proper duties on foreign goods, the country would immediately become rich and powerful, a proper stimulus would be held out to the poor to labor, when certain of finding a quick and ready sale for the productions of their plantations or manufactories. The country abounds in iron ore; yet all the iron and steel, and articles of manufacturers, are obliged to be brought from Europe, the manufacturing or working of iron being strictly prohibited. This occasions the necessary articles of husbandry, arms and tools to be enormously high, and is a great check to agriculture, improvements in manufactures, and military skill. The works of the Mexicans, in gold, silver and painting, show them naturally to have a genius, which, with cultivation and improvement, might rival the greatest masters of either ancient or modern times. Their dispositions and habits are peculiarly calculated for sedentary employments, and I have no doubt, if proper establishments were made, they would soon rival, if not surpass, the most extensive woollen, cotton, or silk manufactures of Europe, their climate being proper to raise the finest cotton in the world, and their sheep possessing all the fineness of wool for which they are so celebrated in Spain. These circumstances, together with the immense quantities of the raw materials which they have on hand, wool selling for a mere trifle, and in fact, they scarcely take the half from the fleece of the sheep, for the coarse manufactures of the country and to make beds.

TROOPS OF THE INTERNAL PROVINCES.

"The appearance of the Spanish troops is certainly (at a distance) *a la militaire*; their lances are fixed to the side of the saddle under the left thigh, and slant about five feet above the horse. On the right, the carabine is slung in a case to the front of the saddle (or pommel) crosswise, the breech to the right hand, and on each side of the saddle, behind the rider, is a pistol: below the breech of the carabine is slung the shield, which is made of sole leather three doubled, sewed together with thongs, with a band on the inside to slip the left arm through; those of the privates are round, and are about two feet in diameter. The officers and non-commissioned officers have their shields oval, bending on both sides, in order to permit the arrow to glance; and they have in general the arms of Spain, with Don Carlos IV. gilt on the outside, with various other devices, which add much to the elegance of their appearance on horseback, but are only calculated to be of service against savages who have no fire-arms. The dragoons of the viceroyalty do not make use of the lance or shield, but are armed, equipped, and clothed after the modern manner, as also the dragoons of the eastern provinces. When they recently expected to be opposed to the American troops, they were deprived of their lance and shield, and received the strait cutlass in their stead.

"Their dress is a short blue coat, with red cape and cuffs, without facings, leather or blue cotton velvet small clothes and waistcoat, the small-clothes always open at the knees; the wrapping boot with the jack-boot, and permanent spur over it; a broad-brimmed, high-crowned wool hat, with a ribbon round it of various colors, generally received as a present from some female, which they wear as a badge of the favor of the fair sex, and a mark of their gallantry.

"Their horses are small and slender limbed, but very active, and are capable of enduring great fatigue. The equipments of the horses are, to our ideas, awkward; but I believe them superior to the English, and they have the advantage over us as to the skill of the rider, as well as in the quality of the beast. Their bridles have a strong curb, which gives so great a mechanical force to the bridle, that I believe it almost practicable with it to break the jaw of the horse. The saddle is made after the Persian mode, with a high projecting pommel (or, as anciently termed, bow), and is likewise raised behind: this is merely the tree: it is then covered by two or three covers of carved leather and embroidered workmanship, some with gold and some with silver, in a very superb manner. The stirrups are of wood, closed in front, carved generally into the figure of a lion's head, or that of some other beast; are very heavy, and to us present a very clumsy appearance. The horseman, seated on his horse, has a small bag tied behind him, his blankets either under him, or laying with his cloak between his body and the bow, which makes him at his ease. Thus mounted, it is impossible for the most vicious horse ever to dismount them. They will catch another horse with a noose and hair rope, when both are running nearly full speed, with which they will soon choke down the beast of which they are in pursuit; in short, they are probably the most expert horsemen in the world.

"The discipline of their troops is very different from ours: as to tactics or military manœuvres, they are not held in much estimation, for, during the whole of the time I was in the country, I never saw a corps of troops exercising as dragoons, but generally marching by platoons, sections, &c. in garrisons, where they serve as infantry, with their carabines. In these manœuvres, they were very deficient. On a march, a detachment of cavalry generally encamp in a circle. They relieve their guards at night, and as soon as they halt, the new guard is formed on foot with their carabines, and then marched before the commandant's tent, where the commanding officer of the guard invokes the holy virgin three times; the commanding officer replies, "It is well." They then retire and mount their horses, and are told off, some to act as "guard of the horses," as cavalry, others as guard of the camp, as infantry. The old guards are then paraded and relieved, and the new sentinels take post. Their sentinels are singing half their time, and it is no uncommon thing for them to quit their post to come to the fire, go for water, &c.: in fact, after the officer is in bed, frequently the whole guard comes in, yet I never knew any man punished for those breaches of military duty. Their mode of attack is by squadrons, on the different flanks of their enemies, but without regularity or concert, shouting, hallooing, and firing their carabines, after which, if they think themselves equal to the enemy, they charge with a pistol, and then a lance. From my observation on their discipline, I have no hesitation in declaring that I would not be afraid to march over a plain, with five hundred infantry, and a proportionate allowance of horse artillery of the United States' army, in the presence of five thousand of these dragoons; yet I do not presume to say that an army with that inferiority of numbers would do to oppose them, for they would cut off your supplies, and harass your march and camp, night and day, to such a degree as to oblige you, in the end, to surrender to them without ever having come to action. If, however, the event depended on one single engagement, it would eventuate with glory to the American arms. The conclusion must not be drawn that I consider they are deficient in physical firmness more than other nations, for we see the savages, 500 of whom, on a plain, fly before fifty bayonets, on other occasions brave danger and death in its most horrid shapes with an undaunted fortitude never surpassed by the most disciplined and hardy veterans. It arises solely from the want of discipline and confidence in each other, as is always the case with undisciplined corps, unless stimulated by the godlike sentiment of love of country, of which these poor fellows know little."

PROTECTION TO INDUSTRY.

Having observed upon many points which it was thought would be instructing to the reader, and ascertained the important powers of the federal and state governments of the republic, it becomes necessary for the settler to be informed that these powers are so carried into effect by the laws, as to afford the highest and most exemplary encouragement to NATIONAL INDUSTRY, by *protecting duties upon all articles of agricultural produce and mechanical construction, particularly* those of *wood* and *leather*. Of these, the prices of which are high, from the abundant supply of the precious metals, and the habitual inactivity and luxury of the generous Mexicans, the intelligent classes of emigrants will avail themselves, in a rapid accumulation of wealth, proportionate to their sagacity and industry. Nothing but extravagance can prevent it. The colonist, with such protection to his industry as the law affords, has nothing to do but steadily pursue his vocation, on the spot he selects for the support of his family; for the rise of land alone, if he has enough of it, will make his fortune. We therefore must add a few words on the subject of

THE TARIFF.

By this the colonist will see that the same laws which protect the agriculture of the country, also offer the highest inducements for mechanics and manufacturers to occupy the lands of the republic, and avail themselves of its bountiful provisions. *Leather*, and all articles principally made of it, *soap*, *lard*, *tallow*, and *tallow candles*, *starch*, and *several other articles* are *prohibited*, while the duty on all sorts of *pleasure carriages*, *common carts* and *wagons of transportation*, on *household furniture*, of *fine wood*, *fancy chairs*, and on *hats* made of wool, &c. &c. is exceedingly high.

The following letter of Messrs. Fugerman, Belden & Co., an extensive commercial house at Matamoras, and its principal market, shows conclusively the immense advantage that the mechanics and tradesmen settled in the colony have in the markets of Matamoras, and other ports of Mexico, where their productions are admitted duty free (in the same manner as those of the United States are, when transported from one port or state to another) over those who live out of the territories of the republic, and are consequently subject to those prohibitions and duties.

NEW YORK, DEC. 6th, 1830.

To Messrs. Anthony Dey, Wm. H. Sumner and George Curtis:

GENTLEMEN,—Having been informed that you are appointed Trustees of a Company for colonizing the lands upon that part of Texas through which the rivers run that empty into Galveston Bay, and believing, from the relative situation of your colony and Matamoras, the place of the establishment of our house, matters of mutual interest may arise, we beg leave to enclose you our card, and tender our best services in any business you may please to command them.

Matamoras is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Rio Bravo del Norte. Although, a few years since, this place, then called Refugio, contained only a few houses, it now numbers 6 or 7000 inhabitants, and is rapidly increasing. The importation of all kinds of lumber from abroad, except house-frames, and of almost all kinds of provisions and vegetables, is prohibited by the laws of Mexico, while we understand that the climate and soil are favorable to the production of all kinds of edibles, and that lumber abounds in Texas. Boots, shoes, saddlery and harness, morocco skins, leather, &c. are also prohibited. The duty on chairs is $1 25 each; on wardrobes of fine wood, $36; and on other articles of cabinet furniture about the same in proportion. The duty on calashes of two wheels is $125; on four wheels, $291 67. All these articles therefore being free of duty from your colony, and selling very high with us, afford great temptation to the enterprising manufacturers of those articles, to the dealers in lumber and to agriculturists, to settle themselves on your grant. Wagons and carts, such as are made in the United States, would soon supersede, if introduced, the plank-wheeled vehicles now in use; and the timber on the river Trinity, we understand, is well suited for their construction. Cotton, which grows well in Texas, will always sell at the ports of the republic, Matamoras, Tampico and Vera Cruz, at about the same prices as in the United States, for return cargoes to Europe. We therefore state our conviction that Matamoras alone, will furnish a cash market for all the surplus mechanical and agricultural products of Texas, for many years to come.

At foot we annex the prices at Matamoras, of several of the staple articles of Texas.

Very respectfully, your most ob't serv'ts,

FUGERMAN, BELDEN & CO.

Flour, ...	$16 *a* 20 per bbl.
Indian Corn, ...	3 *a* 5 "
Rice, ...	12 c. *a* 15 c. per lb.
Brown Sugar, . . .	25 c. *a* 26 c. "
Hog's Lard, ...	24 c. *a* 26 c. "
Hams, ...	25 c. *a* 30 c. "
Potatoes, ...	$3 *a* 5 per bbl.
Lumber at Brazos,	40 per m.

What a prospect do the facts contained in the above letter furnish to the farmers and planters, mechanics and manufacturers of Texas! Rice, the product of the few meadows on the sea coast, is at four or five times the price of it in Carolina! Brown sugar, also made in the southern part of the colony, is a quarter of a dollar a pound! Flour $16 to $20 a barrel. Hogs' lard and hams, in a country where pigs find their own living abroad, 24 to 30 cents a pound! Indian corn and potatoes, $3 to $5 a barrel! and lumber $40 a thousand! Where will the agriculturist find a better country than that which pays such prices for his produce? How does *his* condition, who settled on the public lands of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, compare with it? or *his* on the tributary waters of the Wabash, the Illinois and the Missouri rivers, where corn sells for 10 or 12 cents a bushel, and sometimes less? The cost of their land is greater; their climate not so healthy; their winters longer; and their soil, to speak as respectfully of it as it deserves, no better; yet in one, the farmer is free from *taxes* and *duties* for *ten years*, and in the other, has to bear his share of the public burthens. In one, he has water transportation to cash markets, and in the other, cannot get to any market at all. In one situated on the broad ocean, he has frequent means of communicating with his friends in all parts of the world, and in the other may but unobserved, live unnoticed, and die unknown. What encouragement does it also afford to mechanics! Since the declaration of her independence from Spain, it has been the purpose of Mexico to strengthen herself by increasing her population: and how could she better effect this than by encouraging the settlement in her territories of the skilful artisans of other countries, and the foreign manufacturers of articles of utility and pleasure, from the raw materials of her own produce? To induce *foreign artisans* to come from abroad, *she gives them either the exclusive sales in her own markets*, or favors their industry with such high duties, as have the double effect of adding to the nation's strength, and increasing the consumption of her own products.—The interior prairies and woods of New Mexico are filled with wild cattle, wild horses, buffalo, deer, sheep, &c. &c. She therefore prohibits from entry all articles manufactured from the raw materials, of which she has so great an abundance; and at the same time, in the langunge of the colonization laws, "*guarantees to foreigners security of their persons and property, and invites and calls them to come among them,*" assuring them they may follow their own business unmolested.

The tariff and colonization laws are both founded on the same policy, and have the same end in view. The laws of the emperor Iturbide had the same object as those of the republic—which proves that the encouragement held out to agriculturists and manufacturers, is not the exclusive policy of any particular party or administration, but is the policy of the country. What an opening is here for *tanners, curriers, morocco-skin and leather dressers, tallow chandlers, hatters, shoe-makers, saddlers and harness-makers!* where on the face of the globe are the manufactures of those articles as high as in Mexico? and where can there be so great a profit as in working them within her jurisdiction, where they can be sent to her *silver dollar markets* at a trifling cost of transportation Bexar; but that market is limited and precarious.

[*Mr. Guild, of Dedham, Mass., who is settled on the Trinity, on his return from his visit here this autumn, carried out one of his neighbors, a tanner, to profit by this protection. He assured the tanner that* *he had bought a buffalo hide for three pounds of sugar; and that, if he had the making of a climate, he could not make a better. Mr. Wilson, of Court street, in Boston, informed me that his son carried out with him, last fall, to the head of Galveston Bay, where he is settled, $60 worth of cotton goods, which brought him enough to purchase sixty head of cattle. These must not be considered as common cases; but they nevertheless show how cheap the raw materials are, as well as the encouragement the tariff offers.*—Com.]

The same remarks apply with equal force to all *worker's in wood.* "Where the road crosses the river Trinity," says Gen. Pike, "it is about sixty yards in width, with high steep banks, covered with timber and a rich luxuriant soil." The oak, hickory, black walnut, ash, wild cherry, elm and pine, are suitable for the manufacture of calashes and pleasure carriages of all descriptions, carts and wagons, household furniture, &c. &c. Is not the duty of $125 on a Spanish calash, or $292 on a four wheel carriage, an inducement for *coach and chaise makers* to settle themselves in the beautiful and fertile country west of the Sabine, where they can avail themselves of the advantages which the laws, and luxurious habits of Mexico, hold forth to their industry? Will *cabinet makers* worry out a toilsome existence in an old country, where their business is overdone, or remove to a new one, where they will have the monopoly of the markets? Will not *fancy chair makers* wish to seek a location where the duty alone is more than the cost of the chair? Will not *house carpenters* also, wish to go where so much building is going on, and other tradesmen, where wages are high, and they can work out of doors every month in the year? and *blacksmiths and wheelrights* locate themselves where they can supply carts and wagons, in which the smooth-turned axle will supply the place of the unhewn sticks which squeak in the holes of the plank wheels in common use? These observations might be much extended, and applied to various other trades; but it would be useless to those who are already possessed of the general truth of the remark, that the encouragement to the manufacturer is proportionate to the amount of duty on the article he makes. We should, however, make an important omission, were we to pass on without noticing the encouragement to the COTTON MANUFACTURER which the tariff of Mexico affords. It rests upon simple facts, which the gentlemen engaged in that business will understand, and wants no comment.

The common cotton cloths of the American domestic manufactories, that cost in this country 6 cents, when imported into the Mexican republic, say Vera Cruz, Tampico, &c., pay a duty of 18¾ cents per vara, (8 per cent. less than a yard,) equal to 20¼ cents per yard; the duty being the same in Mexico on both coarse and fine cottons. The raw material, being the product of the soil, is on the spot; and the consumption of our domestics, the past year, has been from 10 to 20,000 bales, in addition to the vast importation of cottons from Great Britain and elsewhere at the same duty. We think we are justified in saying that these facts present encouragements *for the establishment of cotton factories, unequalled in any country.*

There is one inquiry, however, which it is anticipated has arisen in the reader's mind, and which ought to be answered before we proceed to another part of the subject; and that is, if such encouragements as these do really exist, how comes it, when the old world is overburdened with mechanics and manufacturers, tramping from one factory to another for employ, they never have heard of it before? This very natural inquiry is easily answered: The debilitated government of Spain long strove, by all the restrictions upon the industry of her colonies possible to be invented, to keep Spanish America dependent on Europe. It was only in 1824, that, having partaken of the spirit of the age and thrown off the Spanish yoke, Mexico adopted the present republican constitution of government. This fact is well understood; but the change of the laws, arising out of the spirit of her free institutions, have not yet been made known to the world; and it is probable the successful experiment of Col. Austin, with the enterprising population he has introduced into his colony, (rising, as they have, and will continue to do, in prosperity and enjoyment, as the country around them is settled), has contributed more to their promulgation, than all the despatches required of the Mexican ministers to foreign states.

It is with great satisfaction, that we have the authority of Mr. Burnet, of Newark, one of the Empresarios, to append his name to his revised account of Texas, which has been read with great avidity by those emigrants who had heard of propositions for supplying them with farms in a milder clime, and at one tenth the expense of the western wilds of the United States or Canada can furnish.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4, 1830.

To Messrs. Anthony Dey, Wm. H. Sumner, and George Curtis:

Having spent two years in Texas, part of the time in Austin's colony, and the rest of it in traversing the country to which I am about returning for my permanent residence—in compliance with your request to furnish a brief account of it, and more particularly of the grants of Messrs. Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet, I remark, that Texas, in its usual and most extensive acceptation, comprises the whole territory lying between the south-western boundary of the United States and the Rio Grande, alias, the Rio Bravo del Norte, the Gulf of Mexico on the South, and the Arkansas and Mississippi Territories of the United States on the north. This definition, however, is not in strict accordance with the political organization of the country, as the state of Tamaulipas and the department of Coahuila both cross the Rio Grande, making the Nueces strictly the western limit. Anterior to the independence of Mexico, in 1821, under the vice regal government, Texas was almost an unknown wilderness. Foreigners of all nations were prohibited, under the penalty of an indefinite imprisonment, at the caprice of a petty military despot, from trespassing on its soil; and the few native subjects that had sufficient enterprise to encounter the hazards and privations of a new settlement, were constrained, by their habitual indolence and timidity, to restrict themselves to compact habitations. Under these circumstances, the villages of St. Antonio de Bexar, La Babia del Espiritu Santo, and Nacogdoches were commenced, and small parcels of ground in the vicinity of each were brought into cultivation; and under similar discouragements they have lingered along in a most total abstraction from the world for nearly a century. The country at large was left to its primitive condition; and remained so, without an effort on the part of the government to reclaim it, until the final subversion of the regal power, and the emancipation of Mexico from the improvident dominion of Spain. Soon after the institution of the present federal republican government, the settlement of Texas became a favorite point of national policy, and laws of colonization were enacted, expressly to effectuate that object, guaranteeing protection to the persons and property of foreigners, and inviting them to settle on its fertile lands. Under these laws, a large portion of the country has been granted, in districts of various dimensions, to *Empresarios*, or founders of colonies, for settlement. The colonies so conceded, comprehend nearly all the land that is desirable for present occupation.

About seven years have elapsed since the authorized emigration to Texas from the United States commenced; and for a considerable part of that time, the inducements presented to settlers were but little known. Emigration was consequently limited. Within a few years it has greatly increased in number, and improved in character. The whole amount of the Anglo-American population, in 1830, did not vary much from 8000 souls.

[*The present population is variously estimated at from* 50 *to* 70,000 *souls.*—Com.]

The native Mexican population is about 5000 souls, and these are chiefly resident at the three villages before mentioned. Of the aboriginal Indian inhabitants, any estimate I could make, would be conjectural. The principal tribes are located high up in the interior, and have no connexion, and very seldom any intercourse, with the white settlements. They have never caused any very serious disquietude to the colonists from their earliest settlement, and are now regarded as perfectly impotent, and easy of control.

There are few regions of the globe on which the bounties of nature have been more profusely dispensed, than on this delightful country, that is just emerging from obscurity. The fertility of its soil—the amenity of its climate—its contiguity to the ocean—the numerous rivers which empty into it, affording the cheapest transportation to the highest markets in the world, for the principal productions of its soil, are such advantages as are seldom concentrated in an equal degree, and which will enable the enterprising population which is now pouring into it to render Texas the most favored portion of the earth. The territory between the Sabine and the Rio Grande includes a sea coast of about 500 miles in extent. In that distance there are but three harbors of considerable importance, to wit: Galveston, Matagorda, and the Brasos St. Iago, the haven of the Rio Grande. That of Galveston is decidedly preferable to the others, and is probably the best harbor between Pensacola in Florida, and Vera Cruz in Mexico. The bay of Galveston is about thirty miles in length, and varies from twelve to eighteen in width. It receives the river Trinity, the San Jacinto, and some smaller streams; and it may, at very little labor or expense, be connected by canals, so as to receive the produce of the Sabine on one side, and the outlet of the Brasos on the other—both of these places being without a depth of water sufficient for any considerable maritime navigation. The island of Galveston, (San Luis) about thirty miles long, and three to five broad, stretches along the coast in front of the Bay, and arresting the surges of the Gulf, forms a secure and commodious harbour within, adequate to all the ordinary purposes of commerce.

[*It was in the vicinity of this bay that Gen. Lallemande and his party, under banishment from France, upon the restoration of the Bourbons, undertook the cultivation of the grape before he came to the United States.*—Com.]

The principal entrance is at the eastern extremity of the island, where the main land projects to the west, in a promontory of considerable elevation, and is called Point Bolivar. The passage is probably half a mile in width, and the bar, which is stationary and uniform, carries at all times twelve feet, and at ordinary high tide, fourteen, and sometimes sixteen feet of water. The channel is spacious, and free from intricacies; the anchorage firm and good. The depth of water within the point of the island, varies from eighteen to thirty feet for some miles up the bay, until you approach Red-Fish Bar, which bisects the bay in nearly equal parts. On this bar, there are not more than five or six feet of water.—The harbor, which lies on the inner side of the island of St. Louis, is generally well sheltered from the winds.

The rivers of Texas are, the Neches, the Trinity, San Jacinto, Brasos, Colorado, La Baca, Guadalupe, Nueces and several others. The Trinity (Trinidad) rises near the Red river of Louisiana, in its great western bend, and passing through Burnet's and Vehlein's grants, empties into the bay of Galveston, running a course of about 350 miles, through a rich and rolling country. The Trinity is supposed to be navigable during five or six months of the year, ordinarily from January to June, by steamboats of 100 tons, for about 200 miles above its mouth. If there are any obstructions to its navigation, I am not aware of them. The river Neches also rises near Red river, and traversing Burnet's and part of Vehlein's, it enters Zavala's grant, and discharges into the Sabine bay. The Neches is navigable by the smaller class of steamboats for about 75 miles, and by keel-boats some thirty or forty miles further. Both these rivers, and indeed all the rivers of Texas, as of the west generally, are liable, occasionally, and at some points, to overflow their banks. But these periodical inundations are nothing like as extensive as are those of the Mississippi, and its prodigious tributaries. The beds of the Trinity and Neches are remarkably deep, and the waters usually recede within their banks early in the spring, and are never productive of the deleterious exhalations which so fatally infect the atmosphere of Louisiana. These rivers water a country that is seldom exceeded in fertility of soil, or beauty of aspect. The bottom lands are composed of the richest alluvion, and are thickly set with timber or dense canebrakes, and sometimes both. The uplands, are generally good, and much of them characterized by a deep luxurant loam. The crops most congenial to the soil and climate in the grants of Zavala and Vehlein, which bound on the gulf in latitude 29 and 30 deg. are sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, tobacco, and all the fruits common to the torrid zone, as oranges, lemons, grapes, olives, prunes, figs, &c. &c. Burnet's grant, which joins the latter on the north, will yield cotton and tobacco, together with wheat, rye, oats, barley, and all the small grains, and the fruits and vegetables common to the United States, with Indian corn, grows luxuriantly all over the country, and with the same carefulness of tillage, will yield as plentifully as in Kentucky or Ohio.

[*Mrs. Holley, in addition to the above, mentions flax, hemp, potatoes, honey, and bees-wax ; and other authors, raw silk, olives, dates, peaches. limes and citron, as the productions of Texas.*—Com.]

The three contiguous and now united grants of Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet, comprehends the best wooded and the best watered portions of Texas. The surface generally is woodland, but it frequently variegated by small prairies, or natural meadows, containing from 100 to 1000 acres. Many of these primordial *clearings* present very eligible and picturesque sites for buildings, and render a bountiful harvest to the plough of the cultivator. Unlike the pioneer settlers in the western wilds of the United States, emigrants to Texas, will not have to encounter years of arduous labor in subduing heavy and obstinate forests; but they will be able in almost every instance, to procure a portion of good prairie for present cultivation, without any preparatory labor but that of burning the grass with which they are thickly carpeted. The face of the country in these grants is generally undulating, with very few, if any dead levels on which the water rests and stagnates, and has no broken or precipitous hills, or arid plains, that may not be profitably ploughed and planted. No country can be better adapted to the culture of the Vine than this. The poorest description of land in it, is admirably suited for vineyards, and it will, it is anticipated, in no very remote period, rival the choicest productions of France and Italy in wines and fruits. The native grapes are found growing luxuriantly in all quarters, and many of them are of exquisite flavor; while those of Arkansas and Louisiana, owing to the greater humidity of the atmosphere in those regions, are comparatively acrid, and liable to untimely blights. For the same and other analogous reasons, cotton and sugar-cane flourish better, and arrive at greater perfection in Texas, than in either of those countries. *The cotton is of a finer texture, a longer staple, and more silky; and in respect to productiveness, Texas has at least 25 per cent. the advantage over the Carolinas.* The sugar-cane grows larger and taller in the stalk, and possesses the saccharine matter in larger proportions and greater purity.

The timber in these grants includes many varieties, among which are several kinds of oak, hickory, black walnut, ash, wild cherry, mulberry, elm, hackberry, pecan, linn, gum, yellow pine, &c. &c. Cypress is found on the Neches and the Sabine, but whether in large quantities I am not informed. Live oak abounds in some parts of Texas, and grows to a large size, and will constitute a valuable article of merchandise. Red cedar is found on some of the uplands, and like the live oak, furnishes an excellent material in naval architecture. The pine grows large and lofty, and will be immensely valuable for lumber. It is most frequently found interspersed with other varieties of timber, as hickory, oak, *&c.* which indicates a good soil. Indeed this description of land, some of which occurs on the Trinity, in Vehlein's grant, has been ascertained by successive experiments, to yield good crops of sugar, cotton, and corn.

One distinctive characteristic of this beautiful country, is its exemption from swamps and stagnant pools. The land invariably ascends from the water-courses, and rising to moderate eminences, precludes the formation of swamps or putrid ponds, to any injurious extent. This probably is one efficient cause of the singular purity, elasticity and equability of the atmosphere. While the midsummer air of Louisiana is encumbered with moisture and surcharged with noxious miasma, the pure atmosphere of Texas is renewed and refreshed by lively breezes, from the ocean, rolling over a dry, verdant, waving surface, and imparting health and vigor to all that inhale them. I do not design to portray Texas as a paradise of immortality. Man is mortal by the tenure of his existence, and must die there, as elsewhere. But that it is blessed with a climate of uncommon salubrity and delighfulness, is an opinion warranted by the observations of all travellers, and obviously accounted for by its locality and configuration. That some parts of it will be more or less sickly, is quite probable. Indeed, it would be strange were it not so. Bilious and intermittent fevers are incident to all southern latitudes, and *very few* northern ones are exempt from them. But there are few regions either north or south, where bilious fevers are of a milder type, or more within the control of medicine, than are those which occur in Texas; and but few if any, chronic diseases originate there. Lest I should be supposed to exaggerate, which I certainly do not intend, I will quote the authority of the late General Pike, who travelled through Texas in 1807, and who, in his journal, under the head of Texas, says, "It is one of the most delightful temperatures in the world. The province is well timbered for 100 miles from the coast, and has some small prairies interspersed through its timbered lands: but *take it generally, it is one of the richest and most prolific and best watered countries in North America.*" I should however recommend that emigrants from the north, should settle in Burnet's grant, until they become acclimated to a more southern location.

[*As health is the greatest of all earthly blessings, the compiler advises all settlers from the North, to locate themselves in the rolling country, which commences about* 70 *miles from the sea. All settlers and travellers agree that this is perfectly healthy for emigrants from all countries; while that nearer the sea coast is healthy to emigrants from the Carolinas and other southern climates only. Some of the settlements* *on the sea coast, and bays which are surrounded with marsh and wet prairie, are subject to fevers, from which, and all other inflammatory disorders, the rolling lands are free.*

In summer, the breezes set in from the sea about 8 *o'clock in the morning, and refresh the atmosphere.*

The winters are short, commencing in December and ending in the middle of February. The temperature in winter, is about the same as that of the month of November in the Northern States. Water seldom freezes, and the transportation on the rivers, is never interrupted by ice, or the natural pasturage destroyed by frost.—Com.]

The three grants of Zavala, Vehlein, and Burnet, are exceedingly well watered. Besides the Trinity, and the Neches, there are several smaller rivers, as the Angelina, the Attoyeac, the Sabine, the San Jacinto: and numerous creeks and bay[illegible]s that intersect and refresh the land in all directions, and afford abundant sites for mills, and all needful hydraulic machinery. Burnet's grant abounds in springs of the purest water, and they are not unfrequent in the lower districts. The rivers are well furnished with fish of different sorts. The red-fish abound in Galveston Bay, insomuch that a bar, which intersects it, takes its name from them. They ascend the streams for some distance, but I believe are not found above tide-water. It is a fish of excellent flavor, weighing from five to twelve pounds, and takes the hook with all the voracity of the pike. Oyster beds are frequent along the coast, and at most of the inlets. The oysters are fine and sometimes large, and may be conveniently gathered. In the winter season, the waters near the coast are literally covered with wild fowl, such as ducks, geese, brant, and swan. Geese and ducks resort in great numbers to the interior waters. Deer and wild turkies are common every where. The black bear is frequently found in the forests and cane-brakes. Wolves, of several varieties, infest the country, and will for some time be troublesome visitants; but they soon retire from the haunts of man. The pecari, or wild hog, is occasionally met with in small gangs. They are of no value and will soon disappear. Some panthers and wildcats skulk in the thickets. They are not numerous, however, and will soon be exterminated. Buffalo are seldom seen near the coast. They descend in large herds from the Arkansas and Missouri, and furnish the principal sustenance of the Indians of the interior of Texas.

Wild horses roam over the country: they abound particularly on the river Nueces, and far in the interior. Within the organized settlements they are not numerous, and are rapidly diminishing. They are often caught in droves by being driven into pens constructed for that purpose; and when taken young, under four year's old, are easily subdued and domesticated. Many of them are animals of fine figure, but they are generally inferior in size to the blood horses of this country. They are of all colors, and are hardy and active, and better adapted to the saddle than to harness.

[The method pursued by the Spaniards in taking them is as follows: they take a few fleet horses and proceed into the country where the wild horses are numerous. They then build a large strong enclosure, with a door that enters a smaller enclosure: from the entrance of the large pen they project wings out into the prairie a great distance, and then set up bushes, &c. to induce the horses, when pursued, to enter into those wings. After these preparations are made, they keep a look out for a small drove, for, if they unfortunately should start too large a one, they either burst open the pen or fill it up with dead bodies, and the others run over them and escape; in which case, the party are obliged to leave the place, as the stench arising from the putrid carcases would be insupportable; and, in addition to this, the pen would not receive others. Should they, however, succeed in driving in a few, say two or three hundred, they select the handsomest and youngest, noose them, and take them into the small enclosure, then turn out the remainder; after which, by starving, preventing them taking any repose, and continually keeping them in motion, they make them gentle by degrees, and finally break them to submit to the saddle and bridle. For this business I presume there is no nation in the world superior to the Spaniards of Texas.]

Mingled with the herds of *mustangs*, or wild horses, are frequently seen jacks, jennies and mules. Mules and horses were formerly raised in great abundance, and made a principal part of the exports of the country, and will soon again become a lucrative branch of business, as it is attended with little labor and trifling expense. Good jacks can be purchased in the neighborhood of the Rio Grande for about $20, and good unbroken mares, which are equally as valuable as broken ones, can be had at two to five dollars per head, and driven into Texas at an expense, including all risks, estimated at about 50 per cent. on the first cost. A capital stock once obtained, and the subsequent expenses are trifling; the increase sure and valuable.

[*The practice is to cut off one of the ligaments of the fore leg, to keep the breeding mares from joining the wild herds and running off.*—Com.]

The whole face of the country, woodland and prairie, upland and bottom, is verdant with grass; and throughout the winter season, the bottom lands and cane-brakes afford a fresh and apparently inexhaustible pasturage for black cattle, to the raising of which some of the emigrants have lately turned their attention. The stock will seldom require even the slight trouble of salting, as *licks* are common, and their instinctive propensities will soon find them out. Where they are confined to cane-brakes, it will be advisable to use salt occasionally, on account of the constipative quality of that food; but when they feed alternately on grass and cane, it is less necessary. It has been said, and not without reason, that it will cost more to raise a brood of chickens in Texas, than an equal number of cattle. The one is feeble and dependent, and confined to the precincts of the house, where its natural means of sustenance are soon exhausted, and it must be fed and protected. The others range abroad; are nourished and defended by their respective dams, who, feeding on the untilled and ungarnered harvests of nature, are very soon competent to protect and support themselves.

The horses, mules, black cattle, hogs, and sheep of Texas will always find good markets in the West India islands and in Louisiana. At present, the beef cattle and hogs are slaughtered at St. Antonio de Bexar; but that market is limited and precarious.

[*The principal sales of beef cattle are now at New Orleans. At* 5 *and* 6 *years old, without any other food than what the natural pastures furnish, they weigh from* 10 *to* 14 *cwt. Mr. Fortune says,* *the cattle are as good looking as those of New-England. Many graziers have 5 and 600, and some several thousand. Mr. Taylor White has 5000 head. He marked 1200 calves last spring, and drove 1000 head of cattle to New Orleans, which brought from 12 to 14 dollars each.*—COM.]

In many parts of Texas, hogs may be raised in great numbers, on the native mast. Acorns, pecans, hickory nuts, &c. with the several varieties of grass, and many kinds of roots, afford them ample sustenance throughout the year. But these advantages are incidental and peculiar to a *new* country, and will of course gradually disappear as the settlements become compact and the ground is occupied. They nevertheless contribute much to the comfort and prosperity of early settlers, and will, for years to come, be measurably enjoyed in the territory under consideration. There are but few sheep at present in the southern part of Texas. They are raised in large herds on the prairies of the northern part, near the Rio Grande; but the wool is not of the best kind. In all the middle and maritime districts, the herbage is generally too luxuriant, and the temperature is too high for that delicate and fastidious animal, but the interior and hilly regions are susceptible of being converted into as ample and well provisioned sheep walks, as any country in the world, and I should judge the climate to be happily adapted to the merino breed.

Texas is not only an agricultural and a stock producing country, but it abounds in valuable metal saud other fossils. Many rich specimens of silver ore have been found, and there is no question that this metal exists in large quantities. Tradition speaks of gold.

The master metal, iron, has been discovered in many places, and not remote from navigable water. Lead has been found, without being sought for; and whether it occurs frequently, or in large quantities, I am not informed. I have seen samples of copper ore, taken from the head waters of the Brasos, that were almost pure. Indications of stone coal have been casually observed. Salt springs have been discovered in several places, and salt lagoons are spread over much of the country on the seaboard, between the river Nueces and the Rio Grande. The water of the Brasos is sometimes perceptibly impregnated with salt, which proceeds from an immense depository of that mineral, near its source. In Burnet's grant, on the waters of the Neches, there is a copious salt spring, the water of which is said to be so strong that common salt is not soluble in it. It spreads over a surface of several hundred yards, and the ground is thickly incrusted with it by natural evaporation. Salt is made in considerable quantities at the mouth of the Brasos. The water is extracted from a well about 30 feet deep, in the salt marshes which line the coast in that quarter. In short, Texas is abundantly furnished with this indispensable article. Many years will not elapse, before the minerals of Texas will attract the attention of mineralogists, whose researches will probably lead to developments of yet unexplored and incalculable riches. It was a part of the colonial policy of the ancient government, induced by the proximity of the country to the United States, to prohibit all such investigations within this frontier province.

Among the inducements to emigration, presented by this interesting country, the facility and cheapness of access to it, are by no means inconsiderable. A passage from New York to Galveston may be effected as soon, as cheaply, and as pleasantly, as to New Orleans. Galveston, as a harbor, is much superior to New Orleans. The depth of water on the respective bars is about equal; but Galveston has an immense advantage in lying directly on the Gulf, and not requiring the costly aid of steam tow-boats to conduct shipping to its destined haven. The situation of Galveston for foreign commerce is very felicitous. The Gulf of Mexico is spread out before it. Cuba is near at hand, and all the islands of the West Indies are within a few days' sail, as is also the entire coast of Central America, of Venezuela and of Colombia. The current of the Gulf Stream, the great river of the ocean, is at hand to sweep her vessels, with accelerated rapidity, to the eastern Atlantic. The ports of Matamoros, Tampico, Alvardo, Vera Cruz and Campeachy, all within the government of Mexico, are open to her commerce, free of duties; and will always afford rich and extensive markets for the lumber, the provisions, and to some extent, for the cotton of Texas. Indian corn is never worth less than one dollar, and often commands from two to three dollars per bushel, at either of those ports. Beans, peas, potatoes and other culinary vegetables, are always in demand, and may be produced in any desirable quantity, in either of the three colonies of Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet. No country promises a more ample remuneration to the industry of its inhabitants than this, and the laws of none hold forth stronger protection to the labor of respectable emigrants. Population she wants—sober, industrious, virtuous, republican population. With that, she will compete with the choicest sections of the globe, in all that is requisite to secure the happiness and prosperity of man. DAVID G. BURNET.

[*Mr. Burnet married in New Jersey, and returned to Texas. He carried a steam saw-mill with him, which is set up on the San Jacinto river. He is now one of the judges of the territory.*—Com.]

The settling of a new colony of the extent and capacity of that proposed in Texas, is a work of no small expense and responsibility. Though the climate is mild, the rivers numerous, and the soil rich, its products valuable, the transportation cheap, the markets sure, and the prices high, yet there are hardships incident to any new country, which almost defy anticipation, and which all who do not use the proper precautions, must be sure to endure. Notwithstanding this, the enterprising spirit of the age cannot be checked. Men will seek better homes than they possess, though at the hazard of loss, and even the dangers of their enterprise often seem to increase their energies. The difficulties the New England emigrant to the West has to encounter, are often far greater than even those imagined who had best contemplated the subject. But to those who leave their homes unprepared, upon sudden emergency, are often greater than they or their dependants are able to bear. The journey is expensive and toilsome, occupying often months in its accomplishment by land and canal boats, before a spot can be selected; and then the minimum price of land is $1 25 per acre, to be paid in cash at the land office, where the choice of location is made. Many are there whose necessities on the way have required the expenditure of the cash they had laid up to pay for their land, and who arrive without the means of effecting a location.

Having treated of the constitution and government of Mexico—of her grants, and the principles of public policy, upon which they are founded—of her soil, climate and productions; of her markets and means of transportation; of her tariff and other encouragements to industry; it now remains that we say a few words on the political condition and prospects of Texas, that the colonist may understand the subject, as well as those who have offered it to his consideration. It is the interest as well as the disposition of those, on whose territory he purposes to settle, to give him all the information which will enable him to understand the true situation in which he will be placed, that no unfounded anticipations may afterwards produce discontent.

It was said, in the first part of this address, that Texas was an integral part of Louisiana, by which it is bounded on the east and on the north. Its numerous rivers rising in the United States, and emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, the fertility of its soil, capable of supporting millions of inhabitants; its harbors, and particularly the bay of Galveston, nearly as large as Narraganset Bay, in which there is a great depth of water, but which has a fixed bar of 12 to 16 ft. water at low tide, which might be easily removed, so as to make it an important naval station, are local inducements of sufficient importance to make this territory a desirable acquisition to the United States. But its importance to this country, more than all, arises from the commanding power it would give to another, should it fall into their hands. Should Great Britain, to whom Mexico is indebted in something like seventy millions of dollars, acquire it, circumstances in the political relations of the two countries, may easily be imagined, which would make the possession of that territory by her a matter of immense importance to us. With New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on the east, Canada on the north and north-west, (excepting a few degrees on the Rocky Mountains,) and Texas on the west, she would as completely environ the United States, as the natives of the East do her East Indian possessions, and would require us to keep up, at least, as large a force for our own defence against her, as she does against them. She would even more completely encompass us, if the ocean *were now her own, as she used once to call it.* We have no need of looking to future events; the past are sufficient to illustrate the local value of Texas to either power in case of another controversy between them. If the rendezvous of Gen. Packenham's army, in the last war, had been in Texas, instead of Jamaica, it requires no prophet from the grave to tell us what would have been the result of the campaign against New Orleans. As it was the fear that Louisiana would fall into the hands of his great maritime enemy, that induced Bonaparte to offer it to the United States, which it was his interest to strengthen as the commercial rival of

Britain; so it should be our policy to prevent Texas from becoming one of her provinces. It was probably with these views in part, that the ministers to Mexico, of both the last and present administrations of the United States, have been instructed to negotiate for the purchase of Texas, should Mexico be willing to sell it.

[*It may be added, that the possession of Galveston Bay, is almost essential for the raising of a blockade of the Mississippi, should any nation ever lay one. It is through the rivers of Texas, if England possessed it, she could supply her Canadian Indians, in as many weeks as it now takes months. If their supplies should be sent through the new settlements, to which the Choctaws, Cherokees and Creeks have lately been removed by our government, and these be favored with a portion of them, en passant, they would probably feel under the same obligations to the benevolent donor as her other dependent tribes; and thus, instead of half civilized friendly Indians on our western border, we should find, in their removal, we had but added the strength of their numbers to that of other hostile tribes.*

Great considerations of national policy are envolved in the question of the purchase of Texas by our government, and we cannot but express the earnest hope, which we believe is general throughout the United States, that the present discussions for a final settlement of the boundary between the two countries, may lead to the acquisition of a country of such great salubrity and productiveness, and which is so essential to the preservation of our union, by depriving our maritime rival of the means of rendering the Valley of the Mississippi dependent upon her superior naval power. It is reported that the negotiation for its purchase has far advanced already. If so, the Mexico American colonies in Texas, may soon be incorporated into a State of our confederacy. We do not speak thus for *the benefit of the colonists themselves, but of this country generally. The interest of the former may be opposed, but the affinity and associations of its inhabitants induce it.*—Com.]

Except for the considerations named, the cession of Texas is not desirable to its inhabitants. They are perfectly contented with their condition under its present government; they desire no better—it is a free republic, like that of the United States, the people choose their own rulers, and make their own laws, and those laws exempt them from duties upon all goods imported for their own use, and from all taxes for the support of government for ten years from their settlement. What more can they desire? and if they did, we know not to what government they can look with a prospect of attaining it, as they will soon be made a separate State of the Mexican confederation.

The history of parties in Mexico, since her independence, is also full of satisfactory reflections to her new colonists. It shows first the overthrow of despotism in the person of Iturbide, and the establishment of a federal representative Republic in its stead. This has existed unshaken for ten years not with the quietness of the United States, under the administration of Washington, to be sure, but with much the same rivalry of political parties as arose in the United States in their early history. Parties have alternately had the power there as well as here; and although one or the other obtained the ascendency in public opinion there, it has not waited for the constitutional period of change before it assumed the power; yet, so sensible are all the parties in Mexico, of their dependence upon public sentiment, that neither the one nor the other, *when in power*, whatever may have been their previous disposition, have ever ventured to attempt any change in the fundamental principles of the government. Every contest there, as well as in the United States, strengthens instead of weakens the Republican Constitution, which, with great wisdom, they have adopted.

[*This sentiment is fortified by the recent return of Santa Anna to the Presidency, the powers of which he had relinquished upon his victorious return from the camp. It has generally been ascribed to him that his motive in reassuming the reins of government, was to consolidate the government through the priests and the army. But his recent declarations and conduct, shows that he is determined to support the present federal union of the States, and that his patriotism cannot be warped by any inducements which the priesthood can offer.*—Com.]

Neither do the feuds of different parties in Mexico reach the Texas, or have any influence over the minds of the people there. The colony is too far off to feel the throes of political convulsion in Mexico. There has been no troops stationed in it for two years past. It is too young to be called on to pay taxes towards the support of the federal government, and it is rising into importance faster than any nation or country ever did before it, and is content with the advantages it possesses and the liberty it enjoys, and will not be so unwise as to embroil itself in the intrigues and machinations of party. The fact alone speaks volumes, that the people of Texas are Americans, used to the enjoyments, political, civil and religious, which are enjoyed in the States from which they came, and they are contented and happy in their present condition.

A writer from that country, whose letter of October 2, to Mr. Mosely, is published in the Nashville Whig, of Dec. 1, gives a satisfactory description of Texas. He observes, "that the climate of Texas is mild, salubrious and healthy, and is greatly favored by pleasant and refreshing sea breezes during the summer months. The whole tract of country has a gradual descent from the Red river, to within from 40 to 80 miles of the coast, and is free from marsh or lakes, even down to the sea beach." He says, "there is about 70,000 acres of sugar land south of lat. 30; that extensive farms are opened, and the produce of the soil far exceeds their most sanguine expectations. A number of mills and cotton gins are in operation, and several more are building. About 1500 bales of cotton, and 80 hogsheads of sugar, will be made this season, (1830). *That nine years has fully tested the value and healthiness of the country. The government is settled on the true basis of republicanism. The constitution is formed, and the political machine goes on smoothly, and North Americans, on their arrival in this country, will be surprised to find that this governwent is so exactly modelled after that of the United States; that no material variation of fundamental principles is discoverable.* The new settlers are represented in the government, and enjoy every civil privilege that reasonable men could ask for. Those who are here, are satisfied, and say this is the *most munificent government they ever lived under.*"

The time seems now to have arrived, and the policy adopted, which Gen. Pike, upon actual observation of the country, upwards of twenty years ago, while it was subject to the iron rule of Spanish despotism, considered as necessary to its prosperity. His observation was, "that if the numerous bays and harbors of the Gulf of Mexico were opened to the trade of the world, and a general license given to the cultivation of all the productions the country is capable of, with freedom of exportation and importation, with proper duties on foreign goods, the country would immediately become rich and powerful; and a proper stimulus would be held out to the poor to labor, when certain of finding a quick and ready sale for the productions of their plantations and manufactories. The disposition and habits of the Mexicans are peculiarly calculated for sedentary employments, and I have no doubt, if proper establishments were made, they would soon rival, if not surpass, the most extensive woollen, cotton and silk manufactories of Europe, their climate being proper to raise the finest cotton in the world, and their sheep, (in the upper country) possessing all the fineness of wool, for which they are so celebrated in Spain.

The emigrant should contemplate well the circumstances and condition in which he is likely to be placed, and prepare for it. Those that go to Galveston bay, should remember that this is a new country, and should carry a full supply of salted and other provisions with them, for the first six months, and they should also provide themselves with the implements of trade and agriculture. They should avoid the evil which other colonies have sustained for want of supplies. In circumstances such as the emigrant *may* be placed in, a fish-hook or a flint, a gimblet or an awl, may be of greater value than an acre of land; and a mechanic had better leave his scrip than his grindstone behind him. Those who are now so anxious to embark with the view of getting the first choice of a location, must also carry seeds of all kinds of garden vegetables and grain; and apple, pear, mulberry and other fruit seeds, and currant cuttings.

We trust the reader will, by this time, have become fully satisfied that there is no desire, if there were any inducement on the part of the Company, to allure the unwary nor to entrap the unsuspicious by unauthorized assertions, notwithstanding the facts which they have exhibited, so tempting to the enterprising emigrant, might excite an apprehension in his mind that something was concealed. What we possess, we open to all, and as we possess it. We disguise nothing. We urge no one. Those who reject our plan shall not be condemned for their caution, but those who accept it, shall be sure to receive our friendly efforts towards the promotion of their prosperity in the colony. But one thing the colonists must bear in mind, that none will be received as such, unless they possess and can bring the evidence the laws require, of good moral habits. Such, upon application to either of the Trustees in New York or Boston, will receive all further detailed information relating to the progress of the settlement, which they possess. The best mode of conveyance is by vessels sailing direct to Galveston Bay; whence, by means of the rivers, the settlers may be easily transported to almost every part of the colony. Those who prefer it, can go from New Orleans to Natchitoches on the Red river, in the steamboat, and thence by land, following the road, 50 miles, through Cantonment Jessup, to the Sabine river, the border of the colony, thence to Nacogdoches, about 60 miles further into the heart of it. When the colonists provide themselves, their passages from Boston are offered at $10 each; and it is expected vessels will be continually sailing from New York, Boston and other sea ports, and returning again, if any wish to avail themselves of the opportunity for so doing. The return cotton ships from England, France, and the north of Europe, can afford to take passengers for about double that sum.

To those who wish to take up townships, or lesser quantities for settlement, scrip will be furnished by the Trustees, on very advantageous terms, and those having scrip for a single *sitio* or *labor*, will have the opportunity of selecting their locations as fast as the surveys progress. Those who locate, must bear in mind that, by the Mexican laws, actual possession and cultivation of the land, by the number of families, and within six years, is essential to the security of their locations, under the laws, which, while they discourage the holding of legal possession by non residents, makes the most liberal provisions for actual settlers.

Houses are erected at Anahuac, at the head of Galveston bay, for the accommodation of foreign families as they may arrive, until they can fix on a permanent location, regarding which, the agents of the colony at Galveston bay, will give them all necessary aid.

[As the means of reference to the documents which the compiler has consulted, may not be in the power of all, he will make a few extracts from them, for the reader's information, all showing, as they do, the superior advantages of the country to those who have the spirit of enterprise and habits of industry to crown it with success.

The first paper which forcibly impressed him of the value of Texas generally, was the speech of Mr. Clay in Congress, in April, 1820, on the Florida question, in support of his resolutions, which were substantially, 1st. That, by the Constitution, no treaty is valid which alienated any portion of the United States, without the consent of Congress. 2d. That the equivalent (Florida) given by Spain, in the treaty of 1819, for that part of Louisiana lying west of the Sabine (Texas) was inadequate, and that it would be inexpedient to make a transfer thereof to any foreign power.

It was by this treaty that the Sabine was fixed as the western boundary of Louisiana, which it was understood comprehended the Texas as far as the Rio del Norte, or at least the Nueces.

It does not comport with our object to give Mr. Clay's argument in support of the political proposition of his first resolution. Suffice it to say here, that he very ably argued that, as the United States had acquired the whole territory of Louisiana, which extended to the Rio del Norte, no part of that or any other portion of the territory of the United States, could be ceded or relinquished to a foreign State, by the treaty-making power under our Constitution, but that the joint co-operation of the House of Representatives with the other branches, in an act of Congress, was necessary to make the cession valid. The resolution was negatived. Ayes Nays.

On the second resolution, the vote stood, Ayes Nays

We have only room to extract from that debate the valuable information it developed in those relations which are most interesting to those to whom this publication is addressed. This we do at some length, as no motives of interest can be attributed to the speakers.—Com.]

Mr. Clay thus expresses himself:

"The second resolution comprehended three propositions; the first of which was, that the equivalent granted by Spain to the United States for the province of Texas was inadequate. To determine this, it was necessary to estimate the value of what we gave and of what we received. This involved an inquiry into our claim to Texas. It was not his purpose to enter at large into this subject. He presumed the spectacle would not be presented of questioning, in this branch of the government, our title to Texas, which had been constantly maintained by the Executive for more than fifteen years past, under three several administrations."

"All accounts concurred in representing Texas to be extremely valuable. Its superficial extent was three or four times greater than that of Florida. The climate was delicious; the soil fertile; the margins of the rivers abounding in live oak; and the country admitting of easy settlement. It possessed, moreover, if he were not misinformed, one of the finest ports in the Gulf of Mexico. The productions of which it was capable, were suited to our wants."

"He was not disposed to disparage Florida, but its intrinsic value was incomparably less than that of Texas."

"He would not give Texas for Florida in a naked exchange."

In the same debate, Mr. Archer, of Virginia, remarked that,

"Placing out of view the other parts of this concession, what was the character and value of this territory of Texas? The full value we were not possessed of sufficient information, it was probable, to enable us to appreciate. Enough, however, was known, to ascertain its superiority in this respect to the province, as part of the consideration of which, it was proposed to be transferred. In superficial extent, Texas would not be denied to be several times larger than Florida. In a general character of fertility, the two countries, according to the accounts which Mr. A. had received, admitted of no comparison, so decidedly was the advantage on the side of the former of them. Placed in a near vicinity to South

America, this province asserted still more signally, to the character of its productions, its affinity to the peculiar natural advantages which distinguish, in a manner so remarkable, that most favored portion of the earth. Productions of the highest value, and supposed to be the most widely diversified, as respected the soil and climate they required, found here a point of neighborhood and union. Corn, cotton, sugar, met a congenial soil, and circumstances favorable to their production. The climate was of extraordinary salubrity; the rivers various and large. And what was the consideration for which we were to surrender a country such as this had been described; of immense extent, possessed of every natural advantage, destined by the most signal evidences, to high political importance? Was it for the sands of Florida? No, not for the property, but for little more than the sovereignty of these lands. Independently of the grants to Alagon and Vargas, and Punon Rostro, which had been the subjects of recent contestation, for the largest and the most valuable portion of the soil of Florida, was known to have been granted out. The recent contested grants had only been of the residuary lands. In the bargain which had been made, we were to give the sovereignty and nearly the whole, Mr. A. presumed, of the soil of Texas, such as it had been described, for little more, comparatively speaking, than the sovereignty of Florida. Was the bargain one which in this obvious view of its character, with perfect liberty to accept or reject it, it would be expedient to confirm? But great importance was attributed to Florida in a military and political point of view."

"But, was this character of importance in a political view confined to Florida? Was Texas of no consideration in this view? Let the situation of this province, at the back of Louisiana, and the direction of the flow of its principal rivers be considered, and the important and delicate relation, which it sustained at New Orleans, itself the most important position in our country, would immediately be perceived. Upon this view of the subject, interesting as it was, Mr. A. forbore, from obvious considerations, to enlarge. He would dismiss it, merely accompanied with a hint at the capacity of Texas to maintain a formidable population. Considered in a more political aspect, then, the equivalent which we were to obtain for our territorial concession in the treaty, appeared to be little entitled to the preference which had been allotted it, and the ratification of the treaty, altogether unadvisable."

Mr. Trimble, of Kentucky, thus treated the two following points:

"The quality and value of the soil of Florida and Texas, acre per acre.

"The live oak of each province, especially of Texas, and its great value for naval purposes.

"The ports and harbors of Florida and Texas ought not to be omitted. It was his opinion that we ought to hold both Provinces, and it was not his intention to disparage either. He would not, therefore, compare the ports and harbors, although those of Texas would bear a contrast; our charts of both coasts were too imperfect to be relied on, and the recent correction of mistakes as to the depth of water on the outer bar at Mobile Point and Dauphin Island, would caution him against hastily admitting facts reported by submarine explorers. What effect will the surrender of the ports of Texas have upon our carrying trade? Let our eastern shippers and tonnage holders look to that; it is their immediate interest. It belongs to navigation. Get the ports of Galveston and Matagorda, and you get the carrying trade of Vera Cruz. It is a branch of our coasting trade, and if wisely followed, will draw after it the entire carrying trade of Mexico, or New Spain. Every alienation on the Gulf will so far at least diminish your prospect of securing the carrying trade upon those seas. Will gentlemen from the east suffer the phantacies and delusions of a moment, to deprive them of such lasting and valuable advantages? A safe and sure trade upon the Gulf is as much the interest of the Eastern, as the Western States; will they permit local feelings, founded on visions and airy nothings, to govern them in questions of such general and substantial benefit? He would hope not. For his part, he would never so far degrade his station here, as to suffer local interests to govern him upon questions of great national concern. He thought it his duty to strengthen the cohesion of the Union."

"Where are the natural limits and barriers of the Republic?

"The Rio del Norte, the Puerco, and the Appachee mountains, and Siera Obscuro, (dark mountains,) are our natural limits, on that side of the confederacy. Examine, if you please, a map of our country; compare it with that of other nations. Like France, we are bounded by two seas and two mountains: the Atlantic and the Lakes on those sides, and by the mountains west and south. The Rio del Norte is to us what the Rhine is to France, and Texas is our low country—our Netherlands. Spain authorised her minister to *cede all* as far as the Rio del Norte, wherefore shall we *surrender all* beyond the Sabine."

"New Orleans, he said, was the only entrepot for the commerce of the Mississippi and its waters. No city, of ancient or modern times, possessed the same advantages; certainly none of ours had equal prospects for the future. It was destined to become the great emporium of the new world. It was the heel of Achilles—our vulnerable point. Florida, Texas and Cuba are the great military and naval positions which defend the city and its commerce, or threaten it with invasion. It is peculiarly exposed to combined operations; to simultaneous attacks by land and water. Let it be taken and the tree is belted; the country above it will deaden and decay. We have no other market. Our produce will perish on our hands. Expose New Orleans, and you expose our interests in the same proportion. A place of such importance should be guarded by positions which bid defiance to assault. The three positions he had named, belong properly to our continent. Cuba, said he, we shall never get; and the treaty offers to surrender Texas, leaving us Florida, the weakest of the three, to defend the city. He would say the weakest, because he should hazard nothing in affirming that Orleans is most vulnerable on its right flank, on the side of Texas; and always would be so, until that province is settled by our people. From Florida and Cuba, the line of attack upon New Orleans is by water; the land route from East Florida being impracticable for any army of invasion. The enemy would have to debark itself in the face of defensive armies, an operation never desirable, and almost always dangerous. But the base of a campaign against Orleans, laid in Texas, and aided by the fine horses of that country, and the facilities of descent by the Red river and Mississippi, would ensure success; and even if defeated, the men and means of that defeat would cost this country more than twice the sum which would at this day purchase the whole province. This line of attack unites all the advantages of land and water movements. A fleet could actively co-operate upon the Gulf, and furnish the invading army with supplies, by the rivers and bayous of the country. All this was so clear to him, so palpable, that he marvelled greatly at those who could not see it. He would ask, if New Orleans had nothing to fear from a transfer of Texas to England? Nothing from a coalition between England and New Spain? Nothing from the ambition of a Creolian Emperor of Mexico, possessing the very sinews of war, the mines and precious metals, and stimulated by the love of domination?

"England, he said, had fought us two wars, and committed the same errors in each. It was not for him to expose her blunders; experience would not be lost upon her; she could feel for a soft place as well as other nations. It is said she urges Spain to ratify the treaty; and it is also said, that she holds a secret treaty of cession for the island of Cuba: that has been denied. Perhaps it is only a cession of Texas, in part remuneration for subsidies furnished during the war in the Peninsula, against Napoleon and king Joseph. Next to Cuba, it is the most important acquisition she could make upon our borders; especially if she intended to fight us another war. She would then hold the barriers of our country on each flank—on the north and south; and while we besiege Quebec she would plunder Orleans.

"No one, he said, had forgotten the affair of the Chesapeake; on that occasion, the war whoop resounded through all parts of the Union; England heard it, and began to prepare for probable events.

"An officer was sent to New Orleans to make topographical reports of the country, and furnish plans of campaign against the city. That officer suggested three plans: 1st. By Lake Borgne and the Mississippi. This was the assault in front, or direct line of attack. 2d. By Lakes Borgne, Ponchartrain, Maurepas, and the Iberville river, descending by water upon New Orleans. This was the attack by the left and rear. 3d. By laying the base of the campaign in Texas, and crossing that province, descend the Red river and Mississippi and strike the city. This was the line of assault by the right and rear. In each plan, the front was to be held in check by the co-operation of a fleet upon the Gulf. General Packenham adopted the first plan, with what success need not be told; the world and history would long remember it. The second plan might have conducted him to victory; but the third was then, and ever will be, the best and most certain of success, because the lines of approach by water are so numerous that it is impossible to fortify against them; and if the attack is made at the season of low water, when supplies and reinforcements cannot descend the Ohio, Orleans would fall beyond a doubt. Nothing but accident and mischance could save it. Let gentlemen look at a map of that country, and mark the plans referred to, and the facilities of each, and compare them with the physical means of resistance which the country furnishes. Let them combine the effects of positions on each other, their action and re-action. Let them, above all, remember that the best possible plan of campaign is that in which the invading army, without weakening itself by detachments, performs *en masse* the double operation of intercepting supplies and reinforcements at the same time that it presses a seige, or makes an escalade, and they will have to admit that Orleans has most to fear from the province of Texas, "He said, he had no intention to deceive himself or to mislead others. He had no complaint to make against the cabinet for having assented to the treaty. He was sure the President intended to do every thing he could in favor of that section of the Union, consistent with his general duties to the nation, and that it would give him peculiar pleasure to put the finishing touch to the great Mississippi question, in the management of which he had been so conspicuous from its origin to this day, and for which distinguished services he deserved all the applause which the nation had awarded him. Mr. T. knew well enough that members residing at different parts of the Union might have different views of the subject. It was his settled opinion that Texas was worth more than Florida, and he would express his sentiments with the frankness of a freeman. It was worth more for agricultural purposes—for military defence—for maritime protection—for a hostage of peace between us and Mexico. As a colony of England, we should find it a whip of scorpions. With it we surrender the control of the Comanches, the Lepans, the Tetans, and various tribes of Indians, who inhabit its plains and mountains; the most powerful and warlike Indians on the continent—numbering from ten to twenty-five thousand warriors, of great muscular strength and vigorous constitutions—mounted upon the finest horses in our country—the Andalusian blood crossed with Arabian. These wild man are the unconquered descendants of Montezuma, inhabiting the Switzerland of New Spain—a determined, vigilant and crafty race—fruitful in stratagem, skillful in arms and horsemanship, and fierce in battle. They are the Cossacks of America; the Spartans of modern times. Let no man despise the children of the *Sun.*

"What if England should get the province, subsidise the natives, and establish a line of posts along our southern border? Is experience lost upon us? Have we forgotten the rude lessons of last war? Here we are, contesting the point of honor about the Missouri expedition; listening to wise counsellors, who teach us the value of north-western posts;

of holding checks upon the Indians in that quarter, and counter checks upon the influence of British traders, and at the same time advise us to surrender Texas; a country of rich soil and mild climate, about one hundred leagues wide, and extending more than seven hundred miles along our southern frontier; exposing us, thoughtlessly and carelessly, to the vexations and dangers of Indian warfare on that border, but carefully and promptly creating counter-guards elsewhere. Here we protect you against the ruthless savage; there we expose you to his tender mercies. The contrast struck him with amazement. France had a cordon of posts around us while we were colonies; she had forts from Quebec up the lakes, and down the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans. The effect was not forgotten. In the war of '56 she brought the Indians upon our frontier from Lake George to the swamps of Florida. The blood of our people was shed in copious streams; thousands of lives were sacrificed, and millions of money spent in repelling the barbarous invaders. England pursued the same policy during the revolution, and again the savages laid waste our frontier from the Mohawk to the Oconee and St. Mary's in Georgia."

"That thunderbolt went by; and now another comes. Our barriers are surrendered, bartered away. The equivalent is nothing; barriers have no equivalents; they are above its standard; they are the gift of God to nations; the shield and buckler of defence; the guards and counter-checks against invasion. The great Engineer of the Universe has fixed the natural limits of our country, and man cannot change them."

The foregoing are the views of American statesmen.

The following extract from the second edition of Ward's Mexico, published in London, and written by him while British Charge des Affairs at the Mexican Court, during the years 1825, 6 and 7, discovers other interesting views to our government and people, in which the subject presented itself to a British minister.

"The country appears to be rich in valuable produce, abounding in water, and possessing rivers of sufficient size to ensure to its inhabitants the benefits of internal navigation, which have produced so wonderful an effect, in the course of a few years, in the neighboring Valley of the Mississippi.

"Unfortunately for Mexico, these advantages have been duly appreciated by her neighbors in the United States.

"Some hundreds of squatters (the pioneers, as they are very appropriately termed, of civilization) have crossed the frontier with their families, and occupied lands within the Mexican territory; while others have obtained grants from the Congress of Mexico, which they have engaged to colonize within a certain number of years. By thus imprudently encouraging emigration upon too large a scale, the Mexican government has retained but little authority over the new settlers, established in masses in various parts of Texas, who, being separated only by an imaginary boundary line from their countrymen upon the opposite bank of the Sabine, naturally look to them for support in their difficulties, and not to a government, the influence of which is hardly felt in such remote districts.

"In the event of a war at any future period, between the two republics, it is not difficult to foresee that Mexico, instead of gaining strength by this numerical addition to her population, will find in her new subjects very questionable allies. Their habits and feelings must be American, and not Mexican; for religion, language and early associations, are all enlisted against a nominal adhesion to a government, from which they have little to expect, and less to apprehend. *The ultimate incorporation of Texas with the Anglo-American States, may therefore be regarded as by no means an improbable event*, unless the Mexican government should succeed in checking the tide of emigration, and in interposing a mass of population of a different character between two component parts, which must have a natural tendency to combine into one.

"A proposal to this effect was, I believe, made to the President, in 1826, by John Dunn Hunter, whose history excited much interest in this country a few years ago.

"Hunter's object in visiting Mexico, (in as far as I could ascertain it), was to induce the government to assign a portion of the vacant lands in Coahuila and Texas, to some numerous tribes of Indians, mustering in all nearly twenty thousand warriors, who had been driven from their hunting lands on the Missouri and the Mississippi, by the rapid spread of the population from the Anglo-American Eastern States, &c. Retiring across the vast prairies of Louisiana, and pursued step by step by that civilization, before which they fled, they entreated Mexico to grant them lands which they might call their own; and offered to take the oath of allegiance to the government, to embrace the Catholic religion, to devote themselves to agricultural labor, and to defend the frontier against all encroachments.

"This favorable opportunity of acquiring a valuable addition to the population of the country was lost by that dilatory spirit, which, both in Spain and its dependencies, has been the source of so many evils. Hunter left Mexico without having received any positive answer to his demands, and it is said that, in order to clear himself from imputation of bad faith before the great council held upon his return, he advised the Indians to cross the frontier, and to occupy the lands, the cession of which they had solicited in vain.

"This proposal was approved of by some of the tribes, but rejected by others; and a very small body of Indians entered the Mexican territory with Hunter, who proceeded, in conjunction with a few American settlers, to proclaim the independence of Texas, under the name of Fredonia.

"They were opposed by the Mexican commandant of the eastern internal provinces, (Don Anastasio Bustamente,) in conjunction with Colonel Austin, the chief of the flourishing establishment formed by the American settlers at the mouth of the river Brazos; and the Indians, on the appearance of so formidable a force, were glad to obtain terms by immediate submission.

"It is to be hoped that what has already taken place there will serve as a warning, and that the government will henceforward pay some attention to this valuable possession; for, without bearing any ill-will towards the United States, but entertaining, on the contrary, a very sincere admiration of their progress, I may be permitted, as an Englishman, to observe, that it cannot suit our interest to see their line of coast extended as far south as the Rio Bravo del Norte, which would bring them within three days' sail of Tampico and Vera Cruz, and give them the means of closing at pleasure all communications between New Spain and any European power with which they might happen to be at variance themselves."

[Gen. Wavel, an English officer, whose account of Texas is contained in the appendix to the above work, observes, that]

"Texas contains about one hundred and sixty millions of English acres. In the northern part, the climate differs but little from that of the south of Europe, of Buenos Ayres, and the Cape of Good Hope. To the south the white settlers from the United States experience no ill effects from exposure to the sun. Few countries possess so large a proportion of rich land, or are so capable of supporting a dense population.

"The *coast* is low, and during the rainy season, it becomes unhealthy. It is skirted by a number of islands, separated from the main land by narrow straits. The most considerable of these is San Luis or Galveston, the easternmost point of which shelters the harbor of that name.

"The bay of Espiritu Santo is the next harbor of importance; and this, from the numerous shoals, cannot be frequented by vessels drawing more than eight or ten feet of water.

"The anchorage is generally good, and as the water shoals gradually, vessels approaching the coast may be guided entirely by the lead.

"Few countries are better supplied with navigable rivers, streams and rivulets, than Texas. The rivers, at a short distance from their mouths, are generally narrow, deep and clear, with a moderately rapid stream.

"They abound in fish, to which the North American settlers have given the English names, trout, carp, tench, &c. although what I saw differed widely from the fish of the same name in Europe.

"Steamboats run from New Orleans to Natchitoches, 300 miles above the junction of the two rivers, once or twice weekly; except during the autumn, when a chain of rocks prevent their passing higher than Alexandria, 120 miles lower down. About 150 miles above Natchitoches, is the Great Raft, i. e. an accumulation of drift timber, which for many miles forms one connected mass all across the bed of the river, and obstructs the navigation except when the water is very high. Keel boats have already proceeded some hundreds of miles above the raft; and there appears to be no doubt, that, when this obstacle is removed, the river will be navigable to a very considerable distance; indeed, it is generally believed, almost as far as New Mexico. The government of the United States directed captain Birch, together with another officer, to examine accurately the Great Raft, and to ascertain the possibility of removing or avoiding it.

"From their report, it appears, that by merely cutting a canal at an estimated expense of 30 or 40,000 dollars, boats may pass through the Caddo, a chain of smaller lakes, not only avoiding the raft, but also a distance of 100 miles. The object which the government of the United States had in view, was to open a channel for communication with New Mexico, and for the Indian traffic.

"Some branches of this trade have already proved very lucrative; for in addition to small quantities of precious metals, copper, wool, and very valuable hides, and peltries, have been obtained, in exchange for articles of little value. The Indians require but few things; beads, small looking-glasses, common guns and rifles, a kind of baize, red and blue, called by the North Americans, strouding; knives, awls, vermillion, and ammunition.

"Of spirits they are passionately fond, and will make any sacrifice to obtain them; but to supply them with these, which act almost as a poison, and have not unfrequently given rise to assassinations and other atrocities, is prohibited by law. The hides, and skins, and peltries obtainable, are those of the buffalo, horned cattle, horse, panther, leopard, bear, deer, antelope, raccoon, black fox, musk rat and beaver; and they are of the best quality.

"The Nueces, Trinidad, and San Antonio, are fine streams, and in size about equal to the Sabine, which forms the boundary. The Navasito, Angelina, and Neches, San Jacinto and Arroyo de Cedros, are navigable to a great extent, except at certain periods; and the Arroyo de la Vaca, (or Lorilace river), which runs but a short distance into the interior, has, it is stated, nine feet of water upon its bar. The rivulets and minor streams are innumerable. As in Devonshire, almost every valley has its stream or brook; and judging from the small fish which I observed in them, I should conceive the greater number to be perennial. The low lands, which extend along the coast, are admirably adapted to the cultivation of rice. In some parts, sugar, and in others cotton, may be produced similar to that of the Sea Islands. The central part of Texas is prairie, nearly level, and abounding with a most luxuriant vegetation; the banks of the rivers being lined with timber or skirted by ground gently undulating, and covered with trees. Here the depth of rich alluvial soil is very considerable; and cotton, wheat, barley rye, Indian corn, indeed every production, both of more temperate climates and of Europe, is raised in equal abundance and perfection. The prairies, in their natural state, afford a constant supply of excellent pasture.

"The valley of the Red river is stated by the numerous North American settlers, to contain some millions of acres, exceeding in fertility even the celebrated Mississippi bottom, the valley of the Roanoke, or indeed, any lands to be found in the U. States. They have styled it the "Garden of the West," and the cotton which it already produces, far excels the Alabama, Tennessee, or indeed any, excepting that of the Sea Islands. I here ought to remark, that growing cotton possesses one great advantage. Children, so young as to be unable to engage in any other occupation, can be employed in picking cotton, and at the age of nine or ten, probably do fully as much as grown up persons. Every species of grain thrives admirably in this fertile tract, and it is thought that the ribbed sugar cane, lately introduced from the Phillippines, and which arrives at maturity a month sooner than the common sort, would answer well there. In the vallies is found the red, or pencil cedar of the largest growth, also a great quantity of the Bois'd, arc, of which the Indians make their bows. It is of a beautiful yellow color, susceptible of the highest polish, not heavy, but exceedingly tough and elastic. In addition to these, trees of all varieties which flourish in the United States are to be met with—white, red, dwarf, or scrub, and post oaks (of the former of which staves are made; while the latter is so strong, hard and tough, that it is frequently employed in lieu of iron to make the screws of cotton presses); together with iron-wood, hickory, and many other woods admirably adapted for the lathe. The sugar-maple is also very valuable. An augor hole being bored in its trunk, in the spring of the year, a small spout is inserted, and the liquor, which is subsequently evaporated to a consistency, is caught in a vessel.

"A single tree has been known to yield one hundred and fifty pounds of sugar; the average daily produce being from three to four or six pounds. I found its flavor very pleasant, but do not think it is nearly so sweet as the common sugar.

"Humboldt's prediction, that carriages would pass from Washington to the city of Mexico, has been verified.

"North Americans have, in their convenient and light Dearborn or Jersey wagons, repeatedly passed into the interior of Mexico from the United States. Roads are very easily made through Texas, as the country is either flat or gently undulating.

"To clear away the wood costs little trouble; and although the rivers are numerous, being generally narrow and deep, they oppose no obstacles but such as can be easily surmounted.

"The fact that Mr. Couci, an enterprising Frenchman, with about forty others, nearly all his countrymen, passed through Texas with several large wagons laden with goods, in June, 1826, is the best proof of the facility with which every difficulty, such as those which are usually met with in a new country, is here overcome. The Dearborn or Jersey wagon, just mentioned, is admirably calculated to journey through countries where rivers or other natural impediments may render it necessary that each part be speedily reduced to a small size or weight, so as to be rendered portable, and taken to pieces with the greatest ease, and a raft formed of a few trunks, or the larger branches of trees, which suffice to convey it across the rivers, or the whole is progressively passed by hand over any other obstacle.

"Those who have settled in Texas a few months, really enjoy more comforts (and those, in addition to the opportunity of realizing a handsome property) than any peasantry with which I am acquainted. One act of liberality and hospitality, which is constantly practised by all his neighbors towards a new comer, whose character is found unexceptionable, would do honor to the most highly civilized people. They all assemble at the spot which he has fixed upon for his residence, with their axes and draught oxen, fell the timber, and build for him his log-house. This generally consists of three apartments, one for sleeping, another for eating, both closed in all round, while in the centre, which is left open on both sides, he keeps his saddles and tools, and takes his meals during the hot weather.

"The kitchen (also a log hut) is usually separated from the house, and so is also the smoke-house, where the meat is smoked and kept.

"The log-house is by no means an inconvenient residence; indeed, some of them are roomy, neat and durable, very strong, and well calculated to afford protection from every inclemency of the weather.

"The wild animals to be met with in Texas, are the buffalo, or the bison, known in this country as the bonassus, which enters Texas from the north in vast herds during the winter; the panther, leopard, bear, otter, beaver, antelope, deer, racoon, black fox, &c. Turkies abound: there are two species of the partridge; swans often arrive in great numbers, together with immense flocks of wild ducks and geese. The flesh of the buffalo, especially its hump, is excellent, and generally prized far above beef; the bear's ham is also considered a great delicacy.

"But by far the most interesting animal is the wild horse from Barbary, which the Arab transplanted into Spain, passing from thence to the New World, and being turned loose by the first European settlers, it has peopled the rich plains of Texas with droves innumerable. The mustang, or wild horse, is not often large or heavy, but shows blood; it is well made, hardy, active, and if caught young, very docile, although whenever an opportunity offers, it is apt to rejoin its wild brethren. The piebald, light brown, chestnut, and dun colors prevail.

"Their defect is the tenderness of the hoof, which is too frequently to be met with amongst them, as they are bred on soft ground; whereas, throughout Mexico, those which are reared on a hard rocky soil, have a solidity of hoof which renders shoes unnecessary even to the fore feet; the hind feet are seldom shod. The mode of catching them is similar to that by which wild elephants are caught in India.

"A space sufficiently large to contain a drove is enclosed with stakes, trunks, and branches of trees; the entrance is narrow, but gradually widens outwards, and a herd is driven, or decoyed into it by a horse trained for the purpose. I have seen instances of attachment, on the part of a young colt thus caught, to a careful master, far stronger than any that I ever before witnessed in a horse.

"The country of the Comanches is the mountainous district of San Saba, which they cross both in the spring and autumn, and where they deposit their families occasionally during their long expeditions. These Indians generally kill the buffalo with their bow and arrow, their horses being trained to carry them close to it, and on its right side. Sometimes they pursue and, with a sharp iron (crescent shaped) passing its left flank, sever the ham string of the right leg, when the animal falls away from the horse; they sometimes almost shoot it with the rifle. The scent of the buffalo is, however, so acute, that it can be only approached from the

Painted by A. Fisher

Engraved by W. E. Tucker

leeward side; it is timid until wounded, but then its impetuosity is irresistible, and its attacks are repeated until it falls. Being both active, and from its vast bulk very powerful, the charge of an old bull is described as tremendous. The long shaggy hair which covers its head and breast, gives it a terrific appearance, and it rushes headlong at whatever it perceives, (after the smoke of the rifle), blowing and snorting with astonishing loudness.

"Should it discover and throw down its antagonist, it gores and tramples upon him until (if desperately wounded) it falls dead by his side. The horns of the buffalo are short, but very sharp pointed, although thick at the base. Being very hard and black, they are highly prized for cups and other purposes. Its flesh when fat is excellent, especially the hump; the skins, covered with an excessively thick hair, nearly approaching to wool, are much used in the northern parts of the United States, more especially as a wrapper upon travelling in the sledges or sleighs over the ice or snow. The Indians give a softness and pliability to these skins greater than that of the buck or even doe-skin of Europe. The following is, I believe, the process adopted. After tanning with sumac and bark, the skin is stretched over a hole in the earth and smoked; the brains of the animal and alum are also rubbed into it. It is subsequently painted in cheques, diamonds, and similar figures, the colors being very durable.

"The first person who took effectual measures to carry into effect extensive schemes of colonization in Texas on their own private account, was Mr. Austin, an inhabitant of Louisiana; and after he had traversed this vast country near the coast, he fixed on the spot between the rivers Brazos and Colorado, where he obtained a very extensive grant from the Spanish government. Embarrassments, owing to the failure of a large proportion of the banks of the Western States, together with the revolution, prevented his reaping the fruits of his exertions.

"His eldest son, Stephen Fuller Austin, succeeded to the claims, and to the indefatigable and enterprising spirit of his father, who died about the year 1820 or '21. In 1823, he obtained from the first Independent Congress the recognition of the grant; and though inundations, which there were no reason to anticipate, have twice done serious injury to the infant colony, he has the merit of having succeeded in peopling a wilderness, and providing a number of industrious families with an ample subsistence, as well as with the means of acquiring not only comforts, but wealth.

"The only persons who have examined the country, or indeed, it may almost be said, have visited it, except momentarily, are settlers from the United States. So very considerable a proportion of the population of the adjacent districts has flowed into Texas from the United States, that there are now at least ten times as many inhabitants as there were only four years ago. Indeed, from the neighboring territory (Arkansas) alone, as one of its most respectable land proprietors assured me, 16,000 out of 46,000 persons have quitted it in order to establish themselves there. Along a very considerable part of the road that leads from Natchitoches to San Antonio de Bexar, better lodging and provisions are obtained, in greater abundance, and at a lower price, than on many of the principal roads in Spain. The hospitality of all is most meritorious, and the usual price of each meal (which consists almost invariably of pork, eggs, bacon, butter, maize cakes, hot coffee, and sometimes venison and other meats), is only one shilling. This country might easily absorb the whole of the surplus population of Great Britain, a nucleus being formed by the settlement of about one hundred industrious agriculturalists, who, after the first year, might supply grain for at least ten times their own number. Cattle, and more especially pigs, will increase most rapidly, almost without any care or trouble, in the woods. Thus each successive year would, by affording increased sustenance, allow the number of settlers to be tripled, at the least.

"Nature has evidently given to Texas commercial advantages, which she has denied to almost every other part of Mexico; indeed, few countries, if any one, are more favorably situated for carrying on an extensive and lucrative foreign and domestic traffic.

"The principal export doubtless will be cotton, which grows in the greatest abundance, and is in quality inferior only to that of the Sea Islands. As the capital employed in raising it is very inconsiderable, the Texas colonist will be able to undersell every competitor in foreign markets. His healthy lands, cultivated by free and cheap labor, cost him comparatively nothing; whilst the North American and West Indian require an interest on a large sum employed in the purchase of property and slaves, subject to many contingencies.

"Pot and pearl ashes will be obtained in clearing the lands.

"Texas will supply the West India Islands with timber, salted provisions, flour and whatever else they now require from the United States, at least equal in quality, and at a lower price, than they can be obtained from thence. Mules and horses will also be exported to Cuba and the Antilles. The southern parts of the United States are already supplied from thence, and from Coahuila, with both; but more especially the former, which are sometimes embarked at the Brazos de Santiago, close to the mouth of the river Bravo del Norte, but more generally conveyed by land. It is thought that Texas may prove well suited for the growth of the merino wool, both on account of the climate, and the extent of uncultivated land, over which they may be allowed to graze at liberty. The North Americans have exported wool from Coahuila, but I have been informed, that although the staple is long, it is by no means fine, and there is a burr in it, which it requires much trouble to extract. The latter disadvantage will not be met with in Texas, except possibly among the mountains of San Saba, for I have observed throughout Mexico, that wherever the land is arid, burrs and thorny plants of every description abound; although wherever water is abundant, they are scarcely to be found.

"Swamps, stagnant water, and a rank vegetation, together with the disorders arising from marsh-miasmata, render a large proportion of the southern parts of the United States little better than a sickly desert. A circumstance that I have nowhere else observed increases the inundations, which are the real causes of these evils, to a very great extent. The ground is so level, that not only do the more considerable rivers overflow, but by their reflux into the smaller tributary streams, produce the same effect on both sides to a very considerable distance. This I remarked more particularly when ascending the Red river. A current from the Mississippi ran up it, not much less than one hundred miles. Nearly all the rivers of Texas, on the other hand, are "encaisses," and except near their mouths, seldom, if ever, produce inundations prejudicial either to property or health. Nevertheless, during the rainy season, there is a sufficient rise in the rivers of Texas to render even the smaller branches navigable, and afford opportunities of conveying the produce of the interior by water carriage to the coast."

EMPRESARIO GRANTS.

It will doubtless be interesting to emigrants to be informed that, according to the colonization laws of Mexico, and of the State of Coahuila and Texas, the most valuable parts of the Texas territory has been granted to various Empresarios, or contractors, for settlement within their several boundaries, in the period restricted by the terms of the grants themselves. These grants authorize the settling of the whole land within their respective limits, but the contractors are allowed a *premium only on the introduction of the number of families stipulated for, and pro rata for a less number,* except that no premium is allowed for any fractional part of a hundred families. This distinction is necessary to be kept in mind, as disproving a very common error—that the grants are void, unless the number of families allowed are introduced within the period limited. There is no condition to the grants whatever; but only a limit to the extent of premium which the contractors shall receive. This is a question between the contractors and the government, and is in no way interesting to the settlers who are introduced by them, as, after obtaining the consent of the contractors, the settlers take their deeds from the government itself. The following is believed to be a correct list of the several grants:

Zavala's bounds easterly on Louisiana, to	12 March, 1839.
Vehlein's do. do. Zavala's, . .	21 Dec. 1835.
Burnet's do. southerly on Vehlein's, .	22 Dec. 1835.

These three compose the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company's tract, and comprehend about 16 millions of acres.*

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* Scrip has been issued by the Galveston Bay Company to about seven and a half millions, of which it is supposed four millions are already located in Vehlein and Burnet's. Zavala's grant contains about six millions, so that there is more than a sufficiency of land for the scrip issued, if these grants should not again be renewed, which is not supposable, however, as the Galveston Bay Company come within the exception of the law of March last, providing therefor. They have also the same ground to claim it for four years that was admitted in Leftwitche's case, by reason of the interruption created by the law of the 6th April, 1830.

Felisolas' bounds southerly on Burnet, to	15 Oct. 1837.
Cameron's do. north on Red river,	19 Sept. 1837.
Austin and Williams's first grant lies west of Vehlein,	25 Feb. 1837.
Leftwich, or Nashville Company, between Austin and Williams's first and second grants,	May, 1838.
Austin's small grant lies west of Leftwitch's.	
Dominguez, Soto & Co. (formerly Milam's),	1 Feb. 1838.
McMullen & McGloin's, west on the Nueces river,	16 Aug. 1838.
Cameron's small grant bounds east on Austin and Williams's upper grant,	21 May, 1836.
Pardilla & Chambers, between the Red river and the Arkansas,	12 Feb. 1836.
Beales & Rayuelas', west of the above, called the New Arkansas grant,	14 March, 1838.
Beales has also a grant, which lies within the limits of the State of Coahuila, and although it is not comprehended within the judicial circuit of Texas, is commonly called the Rio Grande and *Texas* Land Company. It lies between the Nueces and the Rio del Norte, and in the State of *Tamaulipas*,	9 Oct. 1838.
Soto & Egerton have also a grant, lying within the same State, and north of the above,	1 Jan. 1840.

Dominguez, Wavel's, De Witt's, Woodbury's, Milam's, Wilson & Exter's, Power & Hewitson's, and De Leon's, are believed to have expired. It is said that Beal and Grant have obtained Woodbury's after Nov. 1834.

The settler will hence see the necessity of being cautious with whom he contracts, and will take care not to purchase under the expired grants, and if within either of the others, to locate his scrip in the time limited by the introduction of the number of settlers the law requires, in whose names alone the titles can be issued. It is not probable that many of these grants will be renewed, as a late law provides that no renewal shall be made, unless the Empresario can show an expenditure of $10,000 in his efforts to colonize, which it is thought none will be able to do except the Galveston Bay Company, and one other perhaps.

Those who purchase for immediate settlement, should likewise look at the situation of these colonies on the map, whence they will be able to infer how many years it will be, let the population progress ever so fast, before it will drive back the Indians, and make the interior grants desirable locations for civilized people. It ought also to be remarked, that the lands in the western grants require irrigation, while those adjoining the U. States are blessed with timely rains to bring forward the crops. And we are indebted to Colonel Thorne, of Nacogdoches—formerly of New York—for the important facts, that besides its fineness and length of staple, a great reason of the superiority of Texas cotton over Alabama is, that the rains cease in Texas in picking time, so that the cotton is always of a pure white, while that of Louisiana and Alabama is often stained, if not more materially injured, by the rains in autumn. The picking season is also some weeks longer.

By the articles of association, the scrip of the Galveston Bay Company is transferable by indorsement from one holder to another. But he who presents it for a deed, must be a person possessed of the requisites of the law to become a settler—a man of good moral character, and if he claims a sitio, a married man, or a man with a family. A single man without a family can take out a title to any quantity not exceeding a quarter of a sitio. A sitio is a quarter of a township, or 4428 English acres. A labor is a 25th part of a sitio, or 177 acres.

The mode of obtaining a deed is for the holder to present his scrip to the agent of the Empresarios, Capt. Hodgkiss, at Nacogdoches, and give him the requisite information respecting his circumstances, place of nativity, family, &c. The agent then certifies the facts, and recommends the admission of the settler to the commissioner of land titles appointed by the government. He then issues a title to the settler of the lot he has selected from the unlocated tracts of the whole of the three grants, and upon the payment of his own fees and the stamp duties upon the papers, grants an order of survey at the expense of the settler. The title being thus derived directly from the government itself, can never be disputed, if cultivation within six years follows the location.

The purchases of scrip are made by speculators, who hold it in expectation of a rise, by reason of the great emigration from all parts of the civilized world, and by the emigrant who wants it for his own immediate use. The scrip is nearly assimilated to that of the Georgia Mississippi Land Company scrip, after the compromise under the act of Congress authorizing the commissioners of the government to receive it in payment for the land ceded to the holder, or to the land warrants in the Western States. It is the simplest and safest mode for a settler to get a title, as no records are required to be searched to prove its genuineness, nor uncertainty attending it; through fear that the person's title under whom the settler holds may in any way be defective. The whole policy of the law is to settle the country with industrious farmers, mechanics and artisans, who are all protected in the possessions which they have regularly obtained through the Commissioner, let what will happen to the Empresarios or persons who introduce them.

Besides the Empresario grants, sales have been made by the government, of what are called eleven league grants, the location of which is authorized upon any of the vacant lands of the State not granted to Empresarios.

Lands not granted to Empresarios, nor taken up by the eleven league grants, may be occupied by settlers under the law, upon the payment of the stamps and the fees to the government commissioner and surveyor; and to these vacant lands, several parts of the laws of colonization are solely applicable. But as these are the least desirable tracts, and will not be sought for until the Empresario contracts, (some of which are hundreds of miles from any settlement), and the eleven league grants are all settled, no further notice of them is now required; and the fact is mentioned merely to enable the reader to comprehend several provisions in the laws, which have led many to the erroneous belief that *any of the lands* in Texas may be taken up by paying the fees, and conforming to the terms of the law regulating the settlement of the *vacant lands only.* Whereas locations within the Empresario contracts cannot be made without a purchase of their scrip or certificates of consent thereto.

Attracted by the many interesting accounts of Texas, which have been published, and the projects of different Empresarios, the compiler, although interested as a scrip holder in the Arkansas Company, has selected the territory of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, as presenting the most advantages to settlers from the United States. In this, therefore, he has lately become interested, considering his scrip in the other as deferred stock.

The principal reasons inducing to this preference are,

1st. Its immediate junction with the territory of the United States, and the facility of access to all parts of it in various routes by land and water.

2d. The uncommon healthiness of the tract for settlers from the north, excepting on the alluvial lands of the rivers and bays of the sea coast.

3d. Its freedom from the necessity of irrigation for the production of a crop, which the parched region west of the Colorado requires.

4th. Its favorable situation for foreign commerce, by reason of the excellence of the harbor within the island of St. Louis, or Galveston Island, at the immediate entrance of Galveston Bay, which never has less than twelve and sometimes has sixteen feet of water at its entrance, while the bars of most other ports render the entrance of large vessels impossible. The south-west pass over the bar, next the island, is the best.

By a reference to the map of Texas, the reader will see an excellent chart of this extensive bay, and the facility with which an internal water communication may be made from the mouths of all the great rivers which empty into the gulf from the Sabine to the Rio Bravo del Norte, and adopt the opinion that but a few years will elapse before steam and keel boats, of a small draft of water, by which these rivers must be navigated, loaded with the surplus products of the country for exportation, will deliver their cargoes to the ships engaged in its foreign trade at Galveston Bay. The Sabine is already connected with it by a creek called Taylor's Bayou, which may be opened at a small expense.

The advantage of a similar connexion between the west Bay of Galveston and the mouths of the Brasos and Colorado, will soon cause this principal obstruction (though not a very great one, as the coast is both level and low) to the accomplishment of the whole plan to be removed. From Matagorda Bay, into which the Colorado empties, the map shows an existing water communication, except for a very short distance at the western extremity, to the great river Bravo del Norte, which runs upwards of 1000 miles into the heart of the country. Thus it may be anticipated that *ultimately* the whole trade of Texas will become centred at Galveston, and that of all the rivers between the Brasos and the Sabine inclusive, *immediately*. This view of the subject receives strength from the knowledge of the fact that the government have uniformly refused to grant the Island of St. Louis to applicants, reserving it, as has always been supposed, for the establishment of a *naval and commercial depot*.

The verbal reports of the country, given by General Mason, of Detroit, who passed through Texas last year; of Mr. Fortune, of Wethersfield, in Connecticut; of Mr. Wright, a son of Judge Wright, the eminent civil engineer of New York, and of Mr. Bartlett, of that city, who have returned within a few weeks from their explorations for locations, all shew that the published accounts are not too highly colored. The late Col. Langworthy, formerly of Vermont, who has made several journeys into Texas, in a late published account under his signature, says, "he has travelled considerably over Texas, and has taken considerable pains to collect information to enable him to form a correct opinion in regard to that country. He does not expect to escape the charge of partiality. That charge is generally made against all who attempt to describe, and who speak favorably of a new country; but the testimony given by others, fully supports all that is here said on the subject of Texas. He has also travelled over nearly all the northern States; and of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana, &c., which are certainly, in relation to soil, climate and productions, entitled to the favorable opinion which has often been expressed in regard to them; but he unhesitatingly says, in goodness of soil, in the extent and variety of her productions, in the amenity of her climate, in local and commercial advantages—in short, in every thing which conduces to the comfort of man, Texas has a decided preference to any new country he has ever seen."

The Arkansas grant, which first attracted the Compiler's attention, is organized upon a plan similar to the Galveston Bay Company, so is Doctor Beales'. He purchased scrip in the former without looking at its location. He considered it as Texas land, which, so far as he knew, was all he wanted, until he found, by looking at the map, that one hundred millions of acres must be settled before that would be wanted.

Austin's first colony is principally settled, and is under his own and Mr. Williams' direction at San Felipe. The first pamphlet relating to the country was published by Mr. Austin, who, in the infant state of his settlement, united in himself the powers of Empresario and commissioner, judge and jury, and of the legislative, executive, and military authorities. There are many publications respecting this colony, but the most recent and by far the most captivating is that of Mrs. Holley, a cousin of Col. Austin, and widow of the late President of Transylvania University. It is written with great taste and beauty, and upon actual observation of the condition of that colony, the interests of which, from its exclusion of important matter relating to others, it is presumed, it was written to advance. The pamphlet of Mr. Edwards professes this object distinctly in reference to Beales' grant. From these sources the descriptions of the country, and the information which the Compiler is able to impart, is somewhat taken, referring the reader to the books themselves for further facts respecting them than the extracts furnish. These may be sufficient to excite the curiosity of the reader to investigate the whole matter, as the Compiler has done, and thereby advance the interests of the colonies they were intended to promote. There is another interesting work abounding in lively descriptions of the country, called "A Visit to Texas," some of which, desirous to give all the information in his power, he places before the inquiring public. In looking over this work, however, the Compiler cannot but remark upon its want of candor in setting forth in bold relief, the obstructions to settlers from the United States, as they existed in 1831, when the fact of their removal by law was publicly known (1834) when the book was published. The libel is so gross as to defeat its own object. General Sumner's notice of it in the Boston Atlas, which we shall now publish, is a perfectly satisfactory refutation.

[From the Boston Atlas, Nov. 4, 1834.]

Gen. Sumner's Refutation of the Libel, in the "Visit to Texas," on the Title of the Galveston Bay Company.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ATLAS:

Sir,—The advertisement of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, signed by two other gentlemen and myself, as their Trustees, informed the public of the preparations which had been made for the reception of emigrants into their grants, adjoining the south-western boundary of the United States. In your paper of Thursday, an article appeared, noticing a recent publication called "A Visit to Texas," reflecting upon the Company, and cautioning emigrants to beware of accepting its terms. As soon as the article was pointed out to me, I called on you for the name of the writer, who shortly after, with the promptness of a gentleman, sent me the following note:

GENERAL SUMNER:

Dear Sir,—I am informed by the editor of the Atlas, that you have made application to him for the name of the individual who, in this morning's paper, reviewed "A Visit to Texas," and also that you felt hurt at the tenor of that article. The article was written by me a week ago last Friday, and placed in the hands of the editor for publication in the following morning's paper. It did not appear, however; and, remaining unpublished for some subsequent days, I had almost forgotten it. *By a comparison of dates, you will at once perceive that it was written some days previous to our interview, in which you exhibited such satisfactory evidence to me, that the obstacles which had heretofore prevented the Company from occupying the lands embraced in the grants named in your powers, were removed. So much, then, of the article in question as imputes a doubt of your Company's authority to introduce settlers upon the grants above named, I will cheerfully correct.* This error shall be rectified in a manner suited to your own wishes. It may not be amiss to say here, that my views in bringing "A Visit to Texas" before the public was for the purpose of impressing upon my fellow-citizens, who are desirous of emigrating to Texas, the necessity of caution in embarking upon an enterprise which has proved so fatally disastrous to many who had preceded them. I would have applied the same remarks to any other company, had it occupied the position in "A Visit to Texas" as does the Galveston Bay Company.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

WM. RAYMOND LEE.

October 30, 1834.

The obstacles alluded to arose from the military usurpation of the chief of the Department, who availed himself of the provisions of a law passed for political and not local purposes, on the 6th April, 1830, a few months before the emigrants' arrival who suffered from it, though not to one thousandth part the amount the Company itself sustained. That law had the assent of Mr. Zavala, who was then, or a short time before, had been the minister of Finance, upon the ground, as he stated, that it was only intended as a weapon to be used in the negotiation with the United States on the settlement of the boundary question, and was not designed to be carried into effect. It probably never would have been, had not Gen. Teran availed himself of its provisions to exhibit his political hostility to one of the grantees. In doing so, it is said he acted without instructions; and soon after, meeting with other discomfitures and finding the agent of the Company was recognized by his government, he fell upon his sword, a felo de se. The obstacle thus presented, four years ago, by the *usurpation of a military chief* (for which the trustees were certainly not responsible) has since been removed by a repeal of the law which gave color to it.

The admission in the writer's note of the removal, and his acknowledgement of the right of the Company to settle their grants, renders any further remarks upon Mr. Lee's communication, in your paper, unnecessary.

But it appears to be the design of the author of the "Visit to Texas," to make an impression that he had been entrapped by the purchase of the scrip of the Company which he was thus not permitted to locate. If that was the case, why has he not, during the long time which has since elapsed, called upon the trustees for indemnity? Why is this book published *four years* after the transaction to which it relates occurred, and after it was publicly known that the impediments which then existed had been removed? [*and it is even so admitted in the 262d page of that book, in the following short sentence: "The law of April 6, 1830, forbidding settlers from the U. States, is repealed."*—Com.] If it was not from malicious motives, it can only be accounted for from a desire to check the rush of emigration into the Company's territory, and divert it to the other colonies, which, from their less favorable situation, and greater distance from the United States, or any other civilized population cannot be brought into market in competition with theirs.

As the graphical description in that book, of the beauty and fertility of the country which the Trustees offer for settlement, was calculated to impress the public favorably to the object of the Company, but for the appearance of the communication in the Atlas, no notice would have been taken by me of its allusions to a former military interdiction of settlement by American colonists. For the refutation of the implication it makes of its present continuance, I should have confidently rested in the belief that credence to its removal would not be withheld by those who had seen the recent advertisement of the trustees, (themselves they hope of some consideration,) which was ordered to be printed for public information, under the sanction of the names of a Board of Directors in the city of New York, who are every where known for their opulence, probity and honor.

That the author of the "Visit to Texas," [*who did not purchase his scrip of the trustees*, Com.] nor any one else, had reason to complain of a want of openness and frankness on the part of the Company, is shown by their address to the public in the commencement of their undertaking. That their pamphlet containing it was in the author's possession, is shown by his extracts from the deeds of trust which he must have obtained from it. It also contained the form of the scrip, giving the Company's consent to the holder's admission as a colonist within their limits, but gave no other guarantee for its location than what the holder of it derived under the law which provided for its issue. Neither the laws of that country nor of this, permit foreigners to hold real estate; of course they cannot convey it. But the laws give them a right to say who shall receive it, by becoming inhabitants; and that right they have exercised.

The address of the trustees, which was printed for general distribution, commences with a description of the country, and sets forth the laws of the general and state governments for encouraging emigration, and the provisions they contain, guaranteeing the rights of persons and property; the exemption of the emigrants from taxes for ten years; the prohibition of any person's holding lands who does not live within the limits of the Republic; the law of the 6th April, 1830, which inhibited the citizens of any country adjoining the American territory from becoming colonists, and informs those who held the Company's scrip, *that they are to derive their titles from the Commissioners of the government itself, and not from the Empresario, and then concludes as follows:*

"We trust the reader will by this time, have become fully satisfied that there is no desire, if there were any inducement, on the part of the Company, to allure the unwary or to entrap the unsuspicious by unauthorized assertions, notwithstanding the facts which they have exhibited, so tempting to the enterprising emigrant, might excite an apprehension in his mind that something was concealed. It is, therefore, that, having quoted our authority for every thing we have said, we now propose to publish *every grant, law, and contract in extenso which has come to our knowledge, to enable the colonist to form his own opinion of the legality of his title, the extent of his rights, and the nature of his duties.* Much of the matter thus communicated, is repeated in the petitions and grants, and many parts of the laws relate to the settlement of government lands not under contract to Empresarios; but tedious as it may seem to the reader, prolixity was thought preferable to brevity, which might have been attained with fidelity, though not without that kind of suspicion of the want of it which always attends the publication of an extract. *What we possess, we open to all, and as we possess it. We disguise nothing. We urge no one.* Those who reject our plan will not be condemned for their caution, but those who accept it, shall be sure to receive our friendly efforts towards the promotion of their prosperity in the colony."

The remaining sixty-nine pages of the pamphlet contained *all* the contracts of the Empresarios, deeds of trust, articles of association and every law, both national and state, on the subject of colonization, and the instructions of the government to the Commissioners, to issue titles to such as the contractors admitted, *being all the official documents which related to the subject.*

I must now leave it to your readers to decide whether the holder of the scrip, which, in conformity to the law, expressed simply the consent of the Company that the possessor of it should be admitted as a colonist within their limits, was deceived or entrapped; or whether the writer of the book is not guilty of the deception he imputes to the Company.

Perhaps the admission by the writer of the article in your paper of the validity of the title would be sufficient to convince the readers of the "Visit to Texas" of the injustice of the assertions which its author has thrown upon it. But lest it should be otherwise, I will proceed to show that the "flattering advertisements" which the Company has recently made *are warranted* by the law of the 26th March last.

Art. 32. "To the inhabitants of the frontier of Nacogdoches, and to those who reside to the east of the colonies of Austin (Galveston Bay Company), there shall be issued titles to the lands they occupy, according to article 16th of the law of colonization of the 24th March, 1825; and for this purpose, the government shall appoint one or two Commissioners, who shall do it without any delay, at the cost of the parties, the titles already lawfully issued remaining confirmed."

That the law applies to this case, is carried into effect, and has the sanction of the executive authority, is shown by the following extract from the Governor's commission to Mr. Nixon as Commissioner of land titles, dated at Monclova, 23d June, 1834. "On account of the merits, fitness, and other circumstances that concur in the citizen George Antonio Nixon, residing in this capital, I do hereby, in virtue of the power given to me by the law of colonization of the 24th March, 1825, in force for this case by the 30th article of the law of the 26th March of the present year, appoint him special Commissioner to confer possesion, and issue titles of lands to the families stipulated in the following empresas, that is to say, one with Don J. Vehlein and Company, on the 21st December, 1826; another with the same Empresario on the 17th November, 1828; another with Don David G. Burnet on the 22d of December, 1826, and the last with Don Lorenzo Zavala, on the 12th of March, 1829; the Commissioner exercising the powers that belong to him according to law, and the instructions for Commissioners of the 4th of September, 1827, to confer possession and issue titles to the individuals who may present to him grants from this government by way of purchase, or as settlers, *provided that the Empresarios agree thereto*, and that no prejudice ensue to the families stipulated for."

Thus it is seen that the whole settlement of the colony is placed under the Empresario's control, and that no title can be issued by the Commissioner of the government without their consent, or their lawful trustees and attorneys.

If there were now a doubt of the Company's rights, I could cite the certificate of a minister of one of the Legations at Mexico, which was not given for publication, but to be sent to Europe, and which is sanctioned by the attestations of all the foreign ministers accredited at that Court. An authenticated copy is in my possession, and will be exhibited to whoever calls for it. It is as follows:

"The undersigned hereby certifies, that, according to provision made by a law of the State of Coahuila and Texas, called the colonization law, and agreeably to the provisions of the supreme government of the Mexican United States upon the same subject, grants of land for colonization and settlement are authorized to be made to persons called in the law Empresarios or contractors, who stipulate for the introduction and settlement of families on the lands granted. That in conformity with the laws of colonization, grants have been made of lands in Texas to his Excellency Lorenzo de Zavala, now minister plenipotentiary from the Mexican Republic to the Court of France;

to Joseph Vehlein, a native of Germany, and naturalized citizen residing in Texas; and that these grantees or Empresarios have assigned their rights to the lands included in said grants to Anthony Dey and George Curtis, Esquires, attornies and counsellors at law of the city of New York, and to William H. Sumner, attorney and counsellor at law of the city of Boston, in the United States of America, constituting them their attornies and trustees for the disposition and management of said lands: that the law authorizes each emigrant family settling in Texas to receive a grant in fee simple, not exceeding one square league of land; and to an emigrant single man, one quarter of a league each, upon their presenting to the Commissioners for issuing land titles a certificate from the Empresario of their being settlers, according to the provision of the colonization laws, and which certificate is deemed the foundation of the applicant's claim to lands, and is sufficient to authorize the issuing of the title.

"*And the undersigned further certifies that no obstruction exists, nor need any embarrassment be apprehended in the introduction of settlers from any part of Europe into that part of the Mexican territory known as the province of Texas.*"

After quoting a provision of the law of the 26th of March last, "that no one shall be molested on account of his political or religious opinions, provided he does not disturb the public order," I shall only request the insertion of an extract from the official report of Gen. Mason, the Company's Agent to Mexico and Texas, on his return to New York, in September last, which, in the fewest words, gives the most authentic account of the condition of the affairs of a Company in which many of your readers are interested.

On the 23d of June last, I obtained a decree for the appointment of a Commissioner in a manner entirely satisfactory. The decree I hand you, and it shews *that the Commissioner cannot make a title to any person whatever, without your consent.* But the most important act of the legislature was that organizing Texas into a separate judicial district, a copy of which I furnish you. The law is published in *English*, agreeably to one of its provisions, and *all the proceedings of the Courts are required to be in English*,—a measure at once giving a distinctive and separate character to Texas.

This law secures the right of *trial by jury* in all civil and criminal cases, and imparts to the Mexican Code the security and safeguards of our own. This system is permanent, and will never be relinquished; and was so satisfactory, when explained to the Mexicans, that it is proposed to extend it to Coahuila at the next session of the legislature.

By a letter of attorney, and a letter of instructions to Captain Archibald Hotchkiss, copies of which I deliver to you, he is constituted your agent and attorney for all your grants. He is directed to open an office for the Company at Nacogdoches, the central point of the whole. He is doubtless there with the Commissioner before this, and is operating in his business.

The sum of all I have said is this: You now have your rights acknowledged by the state and federal authorities; every obstacle is removed to the prosecution of your business, and you have nothing to apprehend for the future. The political changes and revolutions in Mexico do not affect Texas, any more than they do the people of the United States. Besides, let whatever party succeed that may, no measures unfavorable to Texa will be adopted. St. Anna approved the law admitting our countrymen as colonists, and is friendly to all foreigners.

The way is now open for doing all that your most sanguine wishes hoped, when you yourselves began. You have a beautiful district of country under your control, superior in my estimation to any part of Texas that I saw. It has a decided advantage in being on our own borders, is more salubrious than Austin's Colony, and affords a greater variety of cultivation. The improvements from the Sabine to the Trinity are remarkably good, and exhibit farms and dwellings that would be admired in any country. Subsistence is cheap for a new country, where constant emigration creates a demand for the surplus productions; but nature has done so much that man has but little effort to make, in order to supply all his wants, and create abundance."

Any further information which I may at any time possess, shall be given at the call of any one interested.

WM. H. SUMNER, { One of the Trustees of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company.

October 31, 1834.

[*It is unnecessary for me to comment on the evidence in the foregoing letter. I will only remark, that since the date of the certificate in it of the foreign minister at Mexico, Americans as well as Europeans are admitted as colonists, by the law of 26th March,* 1834.—Com.]

QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO TEXAS,

By the London Geographical Society.

Introductory Remarks by the Editor of Mrs. Holley's Book.—The following answers, it will be remarked, have, in some respects, exclusive reference to Austin's Colony, though, with few exceptions, they are equally applicable to the whole country. It is to be hoped, that the omission, either in these answers or in the preceding letters, of more extended notices of other colonies in Texas, will not be regarded as any disparagement of those colonies. The author's visit was to Austin's Colony alone, where opportunities of inquiry respecting the local concerns of the other colonies did not occur. Whatever notices of these colonies she might have been disposed to insert in this volume, must necessarily have been compiled from the printed documents of the companies engaged in colonization, already before the public. To these documents she must refer the reader for any local information that may be desired. It may be stated here, that efforts were made by the editor, to procure, from the persons concerned, a general statement of the condition of all the colonies and grants that have been authorised by law in Texas, that the public might have the whole subject presented in one view. The work was actually delayed more than a month, waiting for a statement of this sort, which was promised by a gentleman every way qualified to prepare it. A pressure of important business, alone prevented him from accomplishing his intention.

QUESTION FIRST.—*The proportion of land taken up by the Americans and on what title? Which of the susceptibilities of the soil are they inclined to develope?*

The largest portion of land taken up by foreign emigrants, is in Austin's Colony, which contains (1831) six thousand inhabitants, principally Americans, though there are a number of Irish and English, and some Germans and French. [Now, 1835, supposed to contain six times that number.—Com.] The colonization law of the State of Coahuila and Texas, grants one league of land to families, and a quarter of a league to single men. A Mexican league is 5000 Mexican varas square; equal to 4428 acres English measure. The vara is 8 per cent. less than the English yard. The quantity of land distributed in Austin's Colony, with legal titles, is about 1400 leagues.

In the colony contracted for by De Witt, on the Guadalupe river, upwards of two hundred leagues have been granted to American emigrants, settled by him, and about an equal number of leagues to native Mexicans. The Irish colonies contracted for by Messrs. McMullen and McGloin, on the Nueces, and that of Messrs. Powers and Hewitson, on the coast, between the La Baca and Nueces rivers, are in a progressive state, but it is not known how many leagues have been distributed, under these contracts. The country on the San Antonio river, with that on the lower portion of the Guadalupe, is granted principally to Mexicans, who reside in Bexar and Goliad. The extensive country lying east of Austin's Colony, as far as the Sabine river, (Galveston

Bay and Texas Land Company,) is holden under contracts of colonization, by several respectable companies and individuals, who are successfully engaged in appropriating their lands, but the number of leagues distributed by them cannot be stated.

Titles.—Col. Austin has entered into five contracts, of different dates, with the Mexican government, to colonize a number of families, not exceeding two thousand. Of these obligations, two have been already completed. One will expire in 1833, and another in 1834. The last of the above mentioned contracts was made in February, 1831, and, like all the others, will be in force for six years from the date of it.

The emigrant, after being duly admitted by Austin as a colonist, under his contract, receives a title from the commissioner of the government, for the quantity of land assigned him by law. This commissioner is appointed by the governor of the state, and the title issues in the name of the state, on stamp paper, which costs from two to three dollars. The whole cost of a league of land, to the settler, (1831) will generally be about four cents an acre. For a part of the sum, a credit is given of four, five and six years. All land titles in Texas are granted in this manner, whether to foreigners or Mexicans, and are all subject to the condition of being forfeited to the state, if the grantee fail to make actual settlement, and to cultivate his land, within six years from the date of his deed, or neglect to pay the sums of money required by law. All right and title to the land are also forfeited, if the grantee abandons the country, or sells his land, before having cultivated it. Mexicans, however, who obtain lands from the government by purchase, and not as mere settlers, have the privilege of selling it, before actual settlement or cultivation, but the second purchaser is bound to do both, within six years from the date of the original title, or forfeit the land.

The settlements in Austin's Colony extend quite down to the gulf shore, and to the margins of Galveston and Matagorda bays. None are settled in this colony without legal titles, and consequently, there are no *squatters* here.

Articles principally cultivated.—The principal occupation of the foreign emigrants is farming, and raising black cattle, horses, mules, &c. Cotton, sugar, maize or Indian corn, beans, sweet potatoes and vegetables of all sorts, are successfully cultivated. The cotton produced here, is of very superior quality, and yields from 2500 to 3000 pounds of *seed cotton* to the acre. Seventy-five bushels of Indian corn to the acre have been frequently gathered; but it is not usual for the farmers to bestow a sufficiency of labor on their corn crops to produce that quantity generally.

QUESTION SECOND.—*What are the natural productions?*

The natural productions of Texas are, in general, the same with those of Louisiana and Florida. The indigenous indigo of Texas is considered, by those who have tried it, to be greatly superior to the plant which is cultivated in the United States. It is manufactured in families, for domestic use, and is prefered to the imported indigo.

The productions which may be considered as naturally adapted to the soil of Texas, and which may be made profitable by cultivation, are short and long staple cotton, sugar, indigo, tobacco, olives, grapes, rice, wheat, Indian corn, rye, oats, barley, flax, hemp, sweet and Irish potatoes. The extensive natural pastures found in the prairies, furnish peculiar facilities for rearing horses, black cattle, hogs, sheep and goats. Butter and cheese may be made in very great quantities, and of superior quality. The honey bee seems to have found a favorite haunt in Texas. These industrious insects swarm in great abundance in every district, and bees-wax and honey may be produced in any quantity, and without the least expense. White or bleached bees-wax generally sells for one dollar a pound, in the cities of Mexico. Texas is, without doubt, equal, and perhaps superior to Cuba for bees, and will rival that island, in the exportation of honey and wax.

Dried fruits and distilled spirits may be estimated as important articles of produce:—of the former, peaches, figs, grapes, &c.—of the latter, whiskey, peach and grape brandy and rum.

The mulberry is a common forest tree throughout Texas, and affords every facility that can be desired, for the rearing of silk worms.

The country between the San Jacinto and Sabine rivers is, for the most part, heavily timbered with pine. On the Brasos and Colorado, there are great quantities of live oak and cedar; so that the lumber business cannot fail to become an object of importance, at some future day.

QUESTION THIRD.—*The water, whether good or bad—abundant or scarce?*

The water, generally speaking, is good, in all parts of Texas. Springs of water do not, indeed, abound near the coast, but here the supply of water from the numerous rivers and creeks, which intersect the country, is abundant, and of good quality. Cool and refreshing water may be obtained from wells of moderate depth, in every portion of the country. The interior and undulating districts of Texas, are sufficiently watered to supply all the demands of the farmer, grazier and manufacturer.

QUESTION FOURTH.—*What are the materials for building?*

Materials for building are abundant. There is a sufficiency of timber for all the purposes of building, in most districts. Excellent clay, for bricks, is found in all parts. On the coast, lime may be obtained from shells, and in the interior, from limestone. The price of lumber, at present, is high—not, however, from a scarcity of materials, but from a scarcity of saw-mills, and the high price of labor; on which account, emigrants will find their advantage, in bringing plank, scantling, window-sash, &c. with them.

QUESTION FIFTH.—*What is the current money?*

Specie is the only current money of the country. There are no banks here, and no such thing as paper money. The greatest part of the silver coin in circulation in Texas, is of the description called provincial, or hammered and sand dollars,—a coin of the revolution, made by the Mexican patriots, before they obtained possession of any of the mints. This coin circulates at par in the state of Coahuila and Texas, and in the other eastern states; but is received at a discount of 8 or 9 per cent. in the banks of New Orleans and other parts of the United States. This produces a rate of exchange highly favorable to the emigrants; for merchants, who have remittances to make to the United States, always prefer exchanging their provincial money, at the discount, for United States' bills, gold coin, or standard silver dollars. Several emigrants have found the difference of exchange sufficient to defray all the expenses of their passage to the country.

QUESTION SIXTH.—*The harbors discovered, their depth, and the soil in their neighborhood?*

Galveston harbor has twelve feet of water over the bar. Within the bar, it is safe and commodious. There are no settlements in the immediate vicinity of the harbor. The nearest settlement is the town of Anahuac, or that at the mouth of the San Jacinto, each forty miles distant, in a north and north-west direction up the bay, with the exception of a single family at the west end of Red-Fish bar.

The next entrance west of Galveston, is the mouth of the Brazos river, which has six feet over the bar, and a safe anchorage within. The flourishing town of Brazoria is situated on this river, thirty miles by water, and fifteen by land, from its mouth. This entrance is much the most eligible for emigrants who are bound to Austin's colony. It is the route most frequented, and offers the best facilities for procuring the common necessaries that are needed on arrival, as well as the means of transportation into the interior.

The Passo Cavallo, or entrance into Matagorda bay, has twelve feet of water over the bar, and safe anchorage within. But the bay is shallow, and will not admit of more than seven feet draught, to the mouth of the Colorado river. At the mouth of the Colorado, there is a new town, called Matagorda, which is flourishing, and is a convenient landing place for emigrants, who are destined for the western parts of Austin's colony.

Near the mouth of La Baca, on the east side of the river, there is a considerable settlement of Americans, which belongs to Austin's colony, and on the west side, a settlement of Mexicans. This is the best landing place for those who are bound to the Guadalupe river, or the La Baca and Navidad. Lighters are required to unlade vessels, both at the town of Matagorda and at the mouth of La Baca.

Aransaso bay, the port of those destined for the Irish colonies on the Neuces, is similar to the preceding.

The soil in the vicinity of all these harbors and bays is of the first quality for cultivation, but there is a scarcity of trees suitable for timber.

QUESTION SEVENTH.—*How far north have the Mexicans settled, and what do they pursue for a livelihood?*

The principal settlement of Mexicans is at the old Spanish town of Bexar and Goliad, (formerly called La Bahia.) The former is the capital of Texas and contains 2500 inhabitants. The latter is a village containing about 800 inhabitants. There is, also, a small village of Mexicans on the Guadalupe, at a place called Victoria, about twenty miles from the mouth of the La Baca, near which, there is also a military post. At Nacogdoches, and in the vicinity of the town, there is a Mexican population of about 500 souls. A few Mexican families are dispersed among the American settlers, particularly in Austin's colony. They are employed by the settlers mostly as herdsmen, and are universally acknowledged to be the best hands that can be procured, for the management of cattle, horses and other live stock. The occupation of the Mexicans in Texas generally, is raising live stock, and agriculture on a limited scale. Many of them make a business of catching and taming mustangs, or wild horses, which they sell to the American settlers.

QUESTION EIGHTH.—*Which of the agricultural implements should be provided by emigrants?*

Emigrants should provide themselves with the principal iron agricultural implements and tools, in common use in other countries; such as, ploughs, hoes, axes, brush and hay scythes, harrow-teeth, chains, &c. &c. In Texas, as in other countries, there is a diversity of opinion as to the best construction of the plough. The only kind used by the Mexicans here, and in all parts of Mexico, is what may very properly be called the *primitive* plough. It is formed of one stick of timber only. A tree is sought for with a long straight body. One end of this is made to answer the purpose of a tongue. Near the other end a fork projects, at an angle of 45 degrees, about one foot long, having a strap of iron fixed to the end. This is the part which breaks the ground. On the upper side, and just at the extremity of the main stick, is the handle, by which, when in operation, the plough is kept erect, and guided by the ploughman. This simple plough is similar to that which is called a coulter plough. It serves to loosen the earth to a considerable depth, without turning it over, and is preferred by the Mexicans for this reason. They say that experience in the island of Cuba and in other hot climates, has proved that the use of such ploughs as turn over the soil at every furrow, impoverishes the land, and wears it out in a few years, by exposing it too much to the action of a burning sun. Many farmers use the coulter and bull-tongue ploughs.

A box of tools, containing saws, augers, chisels, a broad axe, planes, a drawing knife, square and compasses, &c. are indispensable, as these tools are needed to make the wooden part of all farming implements, as well as for the construction of buildings. Strong cart wheels, suitable for plantation use, must be provided, as articles of this sort are not yet manufactured in Texas.

QUESTION NINTH.—*What is the best mode of emigrating from the British Islands?*

The best mode of emigrating from the British Islands, is to embark directly for some of the harbors of Texas, in a vessel drawing not more than six feet of water, which will admit of navigating the bays and crossing the bars. Large ships might anchor off the mouth of the Brasos river,* within five hundred yards of the shore, and discharge, by the aid of lighters; but as no vessels of this class have ever yet touched at this place, boats suitable for lighters have not been provided. There are always a few good yawls, at the pilot's house, but a ship ought to rely mainly upon its own boats to unlade.

October and November are much the most favorable months for emigrants to arrive. During these months, the winds are light, and vessels of any size may ride at anchor, off the mouth of the Brasos and other harbors, with perfect safety, and discharge their cargoes without inconvenience or delay. In these months, no danger is to be apprehended from sickness, and provisions are more abundant than at any other season of the year.

QUESTION TENTH.—*What seeds and fruits are most needed?*

Emigrants ought to bring every kind of seed they can procure; for though seeds and fruits, of various kinds, are to be found in Texas, they are not always to be obtained without trouble and expence. The quality of many vegetables and fruits degenerate, through careless cultivation or the effect of climate. Little attention has, hitherto, been paid to the cultivation of fruit, and the country is imperfectly supplied with the choicer varieties. The climate and soil are well adapted to all the varieties of the peach, nectarine, apricot, plum, pear and grape. In the interior, the apple, cherry, and smaller fruits, and near the coast, all the more hardy tropical fruits succeed very well, while, with a little care, the more delicate ones may be brought to perfection.

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* NOTE.—They can enter the harbor of Galveston Bay, which is by far the best in all Texas. See chart on the map.

Seeds of small grain and grass are scarce, such as wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat, &c. timothy, clover, and other grasses. Thorns suitable for permanent hedges are very desirable.

Of domestic animals, emigrants from England, who can afford it, should bring the best breed of English cattle, and the *grass hog*. The prairies afford vast natural pastures for these animals. Also a few blooded horses, to intermix with the light and active Adelusian breed of Mexican horses. Merino and other fine wool sheep are needed, to improve the native stock. The expense of raising sheep and goats is so very trifling here, that it does not enter into the list of farm expenditures. Sheep require no feeding, either in summer or winter, the natural pasture being always sufficient.

[*Upon the answers to the foregoing questions, the Compiler remarks, that the information they contain was valuable, as relating to the period of* 1831. *Since then, great progress has been made in several of the settlements, which are merely named in them—the whole burden of the song seeming to be to bring Austin and his territory, if not exclusively, yet certainly most favorably to the notice of the society which proposed the questions.*

It might now be added to the remarks on page 115, *respecting the colonization of the Galveston Bay Company's tract, that no commissioner of land titles for their colonies, was appointed until June last, and that he did not arrive at Nacogdoches until the 9th Sept. following. Since then, and up to the 21st Dec., there had been titles issued to 409 families, and 300 more were waiting their turn at that date. A contract has been made with Thomas E. Davis, Esq., of New York, for the settlement of a large tract of one and a half million of acres, in the centre of the grants, of which 120 families are to be put on in March, and 280 more during the year. Numerous other wealthy individuals and companies are engaged in colonizing extensive tracts on their individual account within the company's limits; from all which, and the proximity of the land to the United States, it is by no means a violent presumption, that the future progress of population of the Galveston Bay Company's tract, will be more rapid than that of any other part of Texas.*

To the answer to question fifth, page 117, it should be added, that the bills of the bank of the United States pass current in Texas.

To question ninth, page 120, it should be said, that the best and cheapest mode of emigrating to the Galveston Bay Company's grant, for Europeans, who will not like the climate within 70 miles of the sea coast, is, to take passage in the return ships to New Orleans, and thence by the steamboats, which leave New Orleans for Nachitoches, on the Red river, almost daily. At that place, oxen or horses can be purchased, with a wagon, to transport them by land across the Sabine ferry, and over a good road, 110 miles to Nacogdoches, where the commissioner resides: or the vessels from Europe, not drawing much if any over twelve feet of water, may enter Galveston Bay, and anchor safely inside of Galveston Island. From thence they can be taken in lighters or smaller boats up the bay to Anahuac, where they can obtain oxen to draw their families in wagons, on to their several locations, or ascend the river Trinity in boats, as far as Cushattie village.]

U. S. TREATY WITH MEXICO.

Extracts from the Treaty with Mexico, ratified 5th of April, 1832.

Art. 3. *To enter ports, and to reside therein.*

The citizens of the two countries respectively, shall have liberty freely and securely to come with their vessels and cargoes to all public places, ports and rivers of the United States of America, and of the United Mexican States, to which other foreigners are permitted to come, to enter into the same, and to remain and reside on any part of said territories respectively; also to live and occupy houses and warehouses for the purposes of their commerce, and to trade therein in all sorts of produce, manufactures, merchandize; and generally the merchants and traders of each nation shall enjoy the most complete protection and security for their commerce.

Art. 9. *Exemption from Military Service.*

The citizens of both countries respectively, shall be exempt from compulsory service in the army or navy, nor shall they be subjected to any other charge, or contribution, or taxes, other than such as are paid by the citizens of the state in which they reside.

Art. 15. *Security of Religious Opinions.*

The citizens of the United States of America, residing in the United Mexican States, shall enjoy in their houses, persons and properties, the protection of the government, with the most perfect security and liberty of conscience; they shall not be disturbed or molested in any manner on account of their religion, as long as they respect the laws and constitution of the country in which they reside; and they shall also enjoy the privilege of burying the dead in places which are, or may hereafter be, assigned for that purpose; nor shall the funerals or sepulchres of the dead be disturbed in any manner, nor under any pretext.

POLITICAL DISQUISITIONS

Which have appeared in various Newspapers, upon the annexation of Texas to the United States.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette of Nov. 1829.]

After some introductory remarks to the editor, the writer proceeds:

"I have, as you know, sir, some practical acquaintance with Texas; with its dimensions, topography, soil and climate. I have traversed it from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, and from the Gulf to the mountains; and I am well persuaded that it is not susceptible of any mode of subdivision by which more than four States, of medium size, and fair proportions of natural advantages, could be formed out of it, were it to be incorporated into this Republic. Of these four, two would be maritime, the river Brasos, or the Colorado, dividing them north and south; and two would be interior, probably fronting on the old road, from the Sabine to St. Antonio de Bejar, and running back to the mountains. The first two would indeed be *rich* in agricultural productions; and it is an axiom with political economists, that "wealth is power," *ergo*, they would be powerful. Each of them would have one, and only one, convenient sea-port, Galveston and Matagorda; and these would also be the commercial emporiums for their respective neighbors of the inland. They would certainly possess a soil and a climate that might alarm the cupidity of the British sugar-growers of the Western Indies, and excite the envy of the vintagers of southern France: for they would forthwith render this nation independent of the one, and in a few years would supplant, in her ample markets, the costly wines of the other. They would enable us to monopolize the tobacco markets of Europe; to sell, instead of buying, indigo; and would furnish, in any required quantity, cotton of a peculiar quality, of a staple and texture about equi-distant between the finest Sea Island and the best Louisiana, a species of material which our manufacturers would find greatly conducive to the variety, and consequently to the value of their fabrics. They would give us inexhaustible quantities of red cedar and of live oak, adequate to an almost indefinite multiplication, certainly to the perpetual increase of the navy, which has shed so much brilliance around this nation's character; and would enable the *south* to unite more efficiently with the *north*, in supplying and cherishing that potent arm of the nation's defence. They would, in a few years, supply us with all the delicious and costly *fruits* of the Mediterranean, and would present to the skill and enterprise of our farmers, new varieties of agricultural and horticultural productions, which would not only enlarge these sources of individual enjoyment, but would contribute to the national wealth and aggrandizement. In short, they would make this nation, what all nations desire to be, independent of the world for the necessaries, the comforts, and, with very few exceptions, the luxuries of life. Their harbors would be countervails to the formidable *Havana*, and would render it no longer a momentous matter to these States, into whose hands the island of Cuba shall fall.

The other two would be *farming* and grazing and mineral States. They would possess a soil prolific in all the good things of temperate latitudes; and a climate to which the valetudinarians of the north might repair with as much confidence, in the renovation of their health, as they now seek the bright skies, the genial temperature and the corrupting society of Italy. They would invite to their bosoms, emigrants from the staunch old grain-producing States, sober, laborious, *practical* republicans, who have no desire to multify the evils of slavery, or to participate in the unhallowed dominion of man over his fellows. Such a population, so located, would be a perpetual bond of union between the north and the south, and would partake of the habits and predilections and sympathies of both.

In the rear of these interior States, would be a region of mountainous and barren country, which, in the process of some centuries, when the beasts of the forest shall have been exterminated, and nations of *red men* become extinct, might possibly claim to be organized into one, and perhaps two, territorial governments. But before *these* would contain a population that could entitle them to admission into the confederacy, this great republic will, in all human probability, be split into as many parts as was the empire of Alexander, or as may be found in any equal superficies of modern Europe. If, happily, she holds together *until then*, her disseverance will be of little import to human happiness; for, I ween, the great battle of Gog and Magog will have been fought, and this world, with all its garniture, be nigh unto the appointed conflagration.

It is not my intention to descant at large upon the wisdom of this supposed "second point of policy of the new administration;" but, with your permission, I will use the present opportunity to offer some suggestions which may be thought interesting by those whose attention is drawn to this pregnant subject.

There are few countries within the circle of civilization so imperfectly known as Texas. There is not a single geographer, or writer of travels, or of *residences*, who has given any thing like a tolerably correct account of it; and therefore it is not marvellous that erroneous opinions are entertained in relation to its character and extent. I do not design to attempt a geographical description of that beautiful and interesting region, but merely to present some hints that bear peculiarly upon the *point of policy* in question.

The term Texas is usually understood to designate the whole tract of country lying between the south-western boundary of the United States and the river Grande, alias, the Rio Bravo del Norte, these being but different names applied, the one to the upper, the other to the lower part of the same stream. Strictly speaking, and according to the political arrangement, Texas does not include the whole of that region. The federal state of Tamaulipas extends to the river Nueces, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico, about 120 miles north of the Rio Grande. The sovereignty of that State spreads over a section of what *we* call Texas, equal probably to 100 miles square, comprehending the mouth of the Nueces, and the seaboard, between it and the Rio Grande. The late province, now the Department of Coahuila, which, in conjunction with Texas Proper, constitutes the State of Coahuila and Texas, also crosses the Rio Grande, and scollops out of what is geographically called Texas, a tract of about equal dimensions with that belonging to Tamaulipas.

The country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, for near 100 miles interior from the Gulf, is one continuous prairie, and, excepting a belt of about 20 miles in depth, bordering on the Nueces, is an arid, sandy and sterile plain, affording scarcely sufficient herbage to sustain the few deer and wild horses that roam upon it, and which appear to be allured more by its abundant salt lagoons, than by the quantity or the quality of its vegetation.

The Nueces is a long, narrow stream, incapable of any useful navigation, and destitute of a harbor for any thing superior to a shallop. The shores of the Gulf, where it disembogues, are so flat and shallow, and the anchorage in the *offing* is so remote, that a maritime invader could not debark without encountering immense difficulty, and appalling hazards; and when he should overcome these, he would find himself in an open champain country, without a single military point on which he could rest, or to which he could retreat for repose or reinforcement, in the event of disaster.

But the Nueces is of sufficient magnitude for a well defined national boundary. It rises near the lower spur of that great *cordillera*, which we call the Rocky Mountains, and which already forms the western barrier of this Republic. With the exception of a short artificial line, to connect the river with the mountains, such a demarcation would constitute a complete *natural* boundary, in every respect as good and effective, for all international purposes, as the Rio Grande itself,—one which could not be encroached upon without manifest wantonness and hostility. It would give to the United States almost every acre of good land, and *every other* natural advantage that belongs to Texas, in its largest sense; and it would obviate one capital objection, on the part of the Mexican government, to a diminution of its territory. The Mexican is strongly assimilated to the Spanish character; and every body knows that the Spaniards are jealous. It was the favorite and uncompromising policy of the *old* government, to keep the North Americans as far removed as possible from their populous settlements on the south of the Rio Grande. The same feeling, prompted by somewhat different motives, will influence the present national councils. They will not be willing to bring the hardy and enterprising, and, as *they* conceive, ambitious population of the Anglo-American Republic, into direct and immediate contact with their ancient towns and villages, and their *mining* districts, that are sprinkled along the southern shores of the great river of the north, which they look to, almost instinctively, as the *ultima thule* of their native habitations.

On the south bank of the Rio Grande, about forty miles above its mouth, is the city of Matamoras, formerly Refugio. It is the commercial depot for an extensive and populous interior, and imports goods to the value of several millons of dollars annually, which are sent on pack mules to Monterey, Saltillo, Chihuahua, Durango, Zacetacas, San Louis Potosi, and many other minor inland towns. It contains from seven to nine thousand inhabitants, and is increasing with a rapidity that is altogether unexampled in Mexico. The Rio Grande has, in strictness, no harbor. Its mouth is crossed by a bar that does not carry more than five or six feet of water. The haven of Matamoros is at the Brasos St. Iago, which is an arm of the sea, on the north side of the Rio Grande, projected lateral to it, and separated from it by a low narrow neck of land.

It is not conceivable, then, that Mexico ever will consent to relinquish to a foreign power this only harbor to so important a place as Matamoros, from whence she derives a considerable portion of her revenue of customs. That she would be unwise to do so, is very obvious. The State of Tamaulipas, in which Matamoros lies, would assuredly never yield *her* assent to so injudicious an alienation of territory. The acquisition of it would be of no value to this government; for the country on *this* side of the Rio Grande, and proximate to the Brasos St. Iago, is incapable of supporting even a hamlet of fishermen.

My design, sir, is to state facts, not to argue from them. Motives of delicacy constrain me to leave that matter to others. Your friend, B.

GOV. POPE'S OPINION, IN 1831, IN FAVOR OF THE PURCHASE OF TEXAS.

The legislature of Arkansas assembled at Little Rock. Gov. Pope transmitted his Message, which is a long and interesting document. He begins by congratulating the people on the health and prosperty of the Territory, and on their improved form of territorial government. He then speaks of the exposed frontier, and recommends greater military preparations. Among other things, he says :

"With regard to our frontier on Texas, it may not be amiss to remark, that a hope is indulged that it will be purchased by our government. From a superficial view of the subject, it seems to me that the Mexican government can have no strong objection to sell, and that it would be wise and prudent in us to become the owners. We have every reason to expect that the present Chief Magistrate of the nation will not only avail himself of every opportunity to advance the great interest of the nation, but that nothing will be wanting on his part to add to the strength, security and prosperity of the Western Country. The aquisition of this province will ensure to us peace and safety on our south-western and western borders."

[Editorial remarks from the National Intelligencer of Oct. 21, 1829.]

PROSPECT OF THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Every thing tending to throw light upon the project supposed to be entertained by this government of annexing this vast province to our already extended empire, must be interesting to our readers. We therefore subjoin a brief extract from an additional chapter in a second edition of the work on Mexico, written by Mr. Ward, late British Charge d'Affairs in that country, giving his impression, as to the desire, and, (as alleged,) the long meditated purpose of the United States to possess Texas.

After descanting upon the condition of the government of Mexico, the inadequacy of its resources to meet current expenses, the necessity of resorting anew to loans, and the hopelessness of negotiating any more such in England, Mr. Ward seems to think the sole resource for the Mexicans would be to pawn Texas to America. In reference to such an event, Mr. Ward makes these remarks:

"It is now seven years since the design of appropriating to themselves that fertile Province, and thus extending their frontier to the Rio Bravo del Norte, was first attributed to the United States; nor have the Escoces* hesitated, since Mr. Poinsett's arrival in Mexico, to ascribe to an ardent wish on his part to secure this prize, the share which he has taken, or is thought to have taken, in the intestine divisions of the Republic. It is not for me to determine how far this supposition is just; but it would derive a certain degree of plausibility, to say the least, from the confirmation of the present report, should the loan, and the terms upon which it is offered, prove to be correct.

The amount is said to be twelve millions of dollars, for the payment of which the Province is to serve as a pledge.

We are not informed what security the United States propose for the restoration of the territory, in the event of the money being repaid; but when we reflect upon the perseverance and assiduity with which, since the acquisition of the Floridas, their establishments have been pushed in a south-westerly direction, roads having been traced, and canals opened, in such a manner as to admit of their being prolonged at once, should an extension of territory render it advisable—those least disposed to question the good faith of nations, will find reason to suspect that possession, if once obtained, will not easily be relinquished."

Extract of a Speech of the Hon. W. S. Archer, of Virginia, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives of the United States.

"The gentleman asks why we propose to send a minister to the Mexican government? I will tell the gentleman. We propose it for all the reasons which I have just given in relation to the governments of South America. It is a country whose trade already has reached the amount in imports of 4,000,000 dollars, and in exports, $3,000,000. Its territory is nearly as large as our own; it possesses a soil of unrivalled fertility, and comprises the advantages of all climates, and of all products. From these circumstances, it is obvious, not only that its commerce is destined to be great, but that this will happen in a very short time; and from the affinity of their institutions to our own, we are warranted in the expectation that we shall be placed on a footing with the most favored nation. *Besides this, we have now pending with that power, a special negotiation on the subject of boundary.* The propriety and even necessity of having the line which separates the two countries distinctly ascertained and permanently fixed, is manifest, as being one of the best securities against dispute and collision with the neighboring government; and should we withdraw our diplomatic relations, after having commenced so important a negotiation, we shall expose ourselves to the liability of losing a large tract of one of the richest and most favored portions of the habitable earth. *I say this deliberately, for if I were called upon to select any portion of the earth's surface which was fitted by nature to become the garden spot of the globe, I should without hesitation point out to the province of Texas.*

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* British party.

[From the New Orleans News, 1824.]

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ACQUISITION OF TEXAS BY THE UNITED STATES.

The opinion of the New York editors, that Texas will soon be annexed to the United States, appears to obtain little credit in this quarter. The dissidents argue that as the old States have a majority in the Senate, and as it requires two thirds of that body to ratify every treaty, one for the annexation of Texas would be illusory. This is giving very broad ground to the jealousy supposed to be entertained by one section of the Union against another; and we think those who maintain such an argument reckon without their host. The Texas question, in point of constitutionality, is the same as that involved in the acquisition of Louisiana, of which it was once pretended it formed a part.

There are three arguments against the acquisition of Texas. The first, that it would further reduce the influence of the old States in the Confederacy. The second, that it would extend too much the territorial bounds of the Union. The third, that it would increase disadvantageously the annual supplies of cotton and sugar.

To the first objection, it may be answered, that so rapid is the increase of population in the upper Valley of the Mississippi, the old States must lose their influence in Congress, any how, in a few years more.

To the second, it may be replied, that the introduction of rail-roads will make the time of travel between the Potomac and the Rio Grande, less than formerly was required between the Potomac and Connecticut rivers.

The third is answered by the consideration that sugar and cotton will be made in Texas, whether in or out of the Union; and it will be much better that the trade of those regions should be secured to the United States, than left open to foreigners.

On the whole, seeing that 20 or 30,000 Americans are settled between the Sabine and the Rio del Norte, and it promises to be the home of additional thousands! we think that no American senator should be found either so illiberal or so sectional, as to oppose the acquisition of Texas, which certainly would contribute to the prosperity and security of the second commercial city in the Union,—the great emporium of the West.

MR. THOMAS' SPEECH.

In the debate in the House of Representatives of the United States, on the Tariff, in 1833, Mr. Thomas, of Louisiana, objected to the motion to take off the DUTY ON COTTON. He said,

"That, lest it might be thought that all the cotton growing States were of one opinion as to this duty, he wished to say a few words. He found that the most southern State in the Union was in favor of the protective policy, while the most eastern was the advocate of free trade, and the States between were some of one opinion, and some of the other. For himself, he had always been of one and the same opinion. He had fought to win our liberties, and after they were won, he had always held that our country ought to be independent, as well as free; and that this would never be the case, until we were able to work up the raw material of our own raising, and to sell it in its manufactured state to foreigners. Then the country would be not only free, but independent. Mr. T. had not changed his opinion; and he held himself bound to say in his place, speaking, as he did, for the State of Louisiana, that she considered the duty on cotton as a great thing. What would be the condition of the planters there, if it should be taken off? *They had the finest cotton country in the world, hanging just above them on the Red river, and the removal of the duty could not but be attended with the most serious injury. He was not for letting all Texas into our market. Let Texas hunt out a market for herself, as Louisiana had to do.* Let us keep the home market for ourselves. We ought to proceed on the same principles as every cautious and economical family did. They looked first after themselves, and then helped their neighbors. He asked who came first to the New Orleans market? The American merchant. Who gave the best price? The American merchant. He had often heard of the price declining, but never of its rising. By our present policy, an amount of eight or nine millions of dollars was secured to the American planter. Was this nothing? He thought it was something. And he hoped it would not be given up. If, however, any State wished herself excluded from this benefit, he was for granting her the privilege. He might be mistaken, but he hoped Louisiana would be treated as well as the other States. He had heard nothing said about touching the duty on tobacco, and why reduce it on cotton? The duty on tobacco was merely nominal, but Mr. T. was far from asking to have it taken off. This, however, he would say, that if cotton must go, tobacco must go with it.

[*The following sketch of a late debate shows a remarkable degree of sensitiveness among the members on all sides of the House, lest the pending negotiation for the purchase of Texas should be interrupted.*]

{ HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U. S.
{ *December* 30, 1834.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Sevier, of Arkansas, was taken up for consideration:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested (if not deemed incompatible with the public interest) to negotiate with Spain for her right and title to the country lying between the Sabine and Red rivers, in Arkansas Territory.

Mr. Sevier said he ought, perhaps, to explain the object of the resolution. Mexico had no more right to any part of the tract of country between the Sabine and Red rivers than she had to Cuba. By what title did she hold it? True, she had sent her agents into the country to take possession of it and settle it, but it was an act of usurpation on her part.

She offered the territory to those citizens of the United States who would desert their own country, pay taxes and swear allegiance to the government of Mexico, and embrace the Catholic religion. This, he said, reminded him of the offer which the Devil made to our Saviour, of all the kingdoms of the earth, if he would agree to fall down and worship him; for Mexico had as little title to the lands thus offered, as Satan had to those which he showed from the top of the mountain. The subject, he thought, ought not to be left any longer to negotiation, as the pretensions of Mexico were unfounded, and, at the same time, very injurious to our interests.

He recollected when, some time back, a certain distinguished man in Mexico opened an office in this territory, and issued land scrip, swearing in those who received it, as good subjects of Mexico. Our Governor, who, he remarked, was a very good Governor, found it necessary to harangue these people. They had resisted the attempt of the sheriff to collect taxes from them. The Governor told them they should pay the taxes; that the laws of the territory should be enforced among them by an armed force; and that all those who were arrested, for resistance to the laws, should be treated, not as prisoners, but as traitors. This menace had the proper effect, and for the time removed any difficulty. He wanted the government to put a stop to the negotiation with Mexico on the subject, and settle the matter with Spain, to whom the territory belonged.

Mr. J. Q. Adams, after calling for the reading of the resolution, remarked that it was one which the House ought not to adopt without mature consideration. It would involve an admission, on the part of this government, that Spain is interested in the territory of Mexico, and imply a doubt whether the government of Mexico was independent.

The resolution requested the President of the United States to negotiate with Spain, for a portion of this continent, where the title of Spain, as all the world knows, has long since ceased. In what a situation would this place the President? It called upon him to disacknowledge the government of Mexico, and to recognise the right of Spain to a portion of the territory of Mexico. If we could acknowedge the right of Spain to any part of the territory, what would prevent us from acknowledging her right to the whole territory? He hoped that the gentleman would give a more explicit and satisfactory explanation of the object of the resolution, or that the resolution would be laid on the table.

Mr. Sevier, in reply, said, that he should suppose the gentleman from Massachusetts to be as well or better acquainted than any one with the fact, that, by the Florida treaty, concluded by the gentleman himself, in 1819, we yielded to Spain our claims to the territory as far as the Sabine. We sold, as a part of the price of the Floridas, the whole country between the Red river and Sabine, not to Mexico, but to Spain, [*before Mexico declared her independence.*—Com.] How had Spain lost her title? Had she sold it to Mexico? No. Who owns the territory? Certainly not Mexico. Its occupation by Mexico was an act of usurpation on her part, [*and so was the occupation of all Mexico.*—Com.] Mexico had gone on to settle it, as if she owned it. We had held possession, and exercised jurisdiction up to the Sabine, and did still, and Mexico had no title to the territory, either by purchase or conquest. We gave the country to Spain. She did not take it, but has a right to take it when she pleases, [*and will do it, no doubt, when she can conquer Mexico.*—Com.]

In many points of view, it was important to us to obtain it. Mr. S. alluded to the right of navigating the Red river, and the Mississippi, to New Orleans, with produce, free of duty, which was reserved to Spain as a right, the exercise of which would be highly detrimental to our interests; and also remarked, that the territory, if under any foreign jurisdiction, would be used as a place of retreat for runaway negroes, absconding debtors, and refugees from justice. Mexico, he repeated, might as well go and claim Cuba as this territory. *The negotiation which had long been pending between this government and that of Mexico, on the subject, ought, he thought, to be brought to a conclusion.*

Mr. Adams saw no reason, he said, for interrupting the negotiation which the gentleman acknowledged was going on with the Mexican government in relation to this subject.

Mr. Polk (chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means) wished, he said, to remark, in addition to what had fallen from the gentleman from Massachusetts, that it struck him as something very unusual for the House of Representatives, which constituted no part of the treaty-making power, to undertake to instruct the President to enter into a negotiation on so grave and important a question. *He knew of nothing which should induce us to interfere with the pending negotiation*, and he moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Cambreleng hoped, he said, that the gentleman would withdraw the motion to lay the resolution on the table, in order that we might reject it.

Mr. Polk accordingly withdrew his motion.

Mr. Archer concurred, he said, in the opinion that the resolution ought to be promptly and decisively rejected. *It was a proposition to put an end to an important negotiation, and would frustrate the very object which the gentleman from Arkansas had in view.* The reason of the delay of the negotiation with Mexico had been stated in the President's Message. By adopting the resolution, we should give very just cause of offence to the government of Mexico; for it affirmed, in effect, that Spain had still an interest in the territory of Mexico. Although we had recognised the independence of Mexico, yet, in adopting this resolution, we should vote it to be a dubious and disputed point whether Spain or Mexico owned the territory. Such an insult to the government of Mexico would have the effect to determine the negotiation, and to extinguish all hope of our acquiring the territory referred to. The gentleman from Arkansas, looking to the interests of that part of the country, ought to be the last man to propose such a course.

Mr. Mercer rose, he said, to ask the mover to withdraw his proposition, and to say that, if he did not, he should be under the necessity of calling for the yeas and nays on the question of its adoption. This government stood pledged to Mexico to resist any effort, on the part of Spain, to recolonize any part of the American Continent, and he hoped that no one who was a party to that pledge would vote for this resolution. He wished Mexico to know that this House refused to entertain a proposition of a character so derogatory to her national dignity. Were not gentlemen aware of the importance of maintaining relations of amity with Mexico?

Had it been forgotten that the life of a Minister from the United States to that government had been endangered, and our commercial interests in that country jeopardized, by the jealous influence of a commercial rival? By adopting such a proposition as this, we should give good cause for those jealousies which the Mexican government had been led to entertain of the views of this government in regard to the interests of Mexico.

Mr. Sevier said, that, as his proposition had drawn fires from all quarters of the House, he would withdraw it—still protesting against the title and right set up by Mexico to the territory in dispute, and asserting it to be the property of Old Spain.

DESCRIPTIONS OF TEXAS.

Face of the Country, Climate, Products, Inhabitants and Occupations, &c., extracted from Newspapers in various parts of the Union, and from private Letters of late Travellers and Residents.

[From the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.]

The following letter from a gentleman of respectability now in Texas, to Mr. Moseley, of this vicinity, has been politely furnished us for publication; and as it contains facts, ascertained from personal observation, that will, no doubt, be interesting to our readers, we cheerfully give it an early insertion.

" *Town of Austin, October 2, 1830.*

" My Dear Sir,—Your son Robert having solicited me to favor you with a short history of that part of the habitable earth properly called Texas, I freely avail myself of this opportunity of doing so, as the truth of every fact I submit may be fairly tested by you on the return to Nashville of a number of respectable citizens who are now in this place. I have resided in the country nearly four years, and have been active in collecting all the information to be relied on, relative to this, my adopted country, and shall give it you as such, under the hope and persuasion that it will carry conviction with it, *until the leading parts are refuted*, or *at least controverted.*

" Texas, then, embraces a very extensive territory, and a single glance at the map will be sufficient to show the great advantages derivable from its *local position* in respect to soil and commercial facilities. It is bounded on two sides by the United States of America, and extends, as it were, like a peninsula, into that nation. The intercourse between the two republics by water, along the coast, is easy and safe, and three or four days' sail will take you from the coast of Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi, to Vera Cruz, to the South, or to the Havana. The land communication between the two republics is equally easy, being open the whole extent of the Louisiana and Arkansas frontiers, and susceptible of good roads, leading into Opelousas, Attakapas, and the upper settlements of Arkansas Territory on the Red river, and also to New Mexico, Chihuahua, New Leon, and the other Mexican States lying to the west. The West Indies lie in front, and an immense extent of Mexican coast to the south, thus presenting channels of commerce in every direction. The climate of Texas is mild, salubrious and healthy. It lies between lat. 28 and 34 degrees north, and is greatly favored by pleasant and refreshing sea-breezes during the summer months. The country is intersected by four rivers, that are navigable from one hundred to four hundred miles, to wit, the Nechez, the Trinity, the Brasos, and the Colorado, besides a great number of smaller streams, that afford good navigation a shorter distance, and the great abundance of its creeks and living springs, taken in connexion with other topographical characters, presents more extensive facilities for canalling than can be found on an equal surface in any part of North America.

"Texas forms an immense inclined plane, the apex of which is the high land south of the Red river, where its principal rivers have their source. From this summit the inclination is towards the south-east, and surprisingly uniform. *The surface is beautifully undulating to within about sixty miles of the coast,* [*this is the region of health for Northerners,*—Com.] where it becomes level; and some parts of the north-western section is hilly, particularly at the heads of the Colorado and Guadaloupe rivers, though the general feature of an inclined plane is observable throughout; for the hills do not form leading ridges so as to impede the flow of water to the south-east, neither are the undulations greater than are necessary to render the country dry, healthy and beautiful. The hills gradually lessen till they lose themselves in the level strip that borders on the coast, which is from forty to eighty miles wide.

"The whole of this tract of country (strange as it may appear in this latitude) is, without exception, free from marsh or lakes, even down to the sea beach.

"The soil on the rivulets and creeks is of the first quality of alluvial, and heavily timbered; between these, the country is entirely prairie, though level and rich, and of dark complexion. The timbered bottom lands are from two to fifteen miles wide, a small portion or strip of which is subject to inundation in extreme high freshets, but the floods are not frequent, and, owing to the comparative shortness of the streams, soon subside. The undulating country comprises by far the greatest portion of Texas. It is timbered and prairie land, conveniently interspersed, and abounding in good springs, and creeks of pure water; and the same observation as to the water applies to the healthy country on the Colorado and Gaudaloupe. The level region is evidently alluvial, and of recent formation, and the undulating region presents numerous evidences of secondary formation.

"The pasturage of Texas is also surprisingly abundant all over the whole country, and good both summer and winter; and every species of domestic animals incident to the comfort and convenience of man, cultivated by *North Americans*, is more easily reared in Texas than elsewhere. There is also positive proof that Texas possesses many beds of good iron and lead ore, and it is said that copper, silver and gold have been found in the hilly region of the Colorado in small quantities, but no experiments in mining have as yet been made by *the colonists*, for *two reasons*; one is, that the supposed mines of the precious metals are in the Indian territory, and another, the principal reason, is the want of capital.

"Nature seems to have formed Texas for *a great* agricultural, manufacturing and commercial country. It combines in an eminent degree, all the elements necessary for those different branches of industry. It possesses about 70,000 square miles of good sugar lands south of lat. 30, and east of the river Nueces which is the present western boundary of Texas. This river is about eighty miles east of the Rio Grande or Bravo del Norte. The northern and high parts of the country are well adapted to the cultivation of wheat and small grain, and the streams afford great facilities for water works and irrigation. The whole country produces cotton of the first quality, acknowledged in New Orleans to be equal, and in Liverpool, to be superior to Red river and Louisiana cotton. The tobacco and indigo of Texas are also of superior quality, the latter of which is a spontaneous growth of the country in the poorest parts; and in addition to these, the climate and soil are congenial to the culture of the olive, the vine, and other fruits and productions of a temperate southern latitude.

"The country on the Sabine, Nechez, and Trinity rivers, abounds in good pine, and some cypress and cedar, though the two latter are not abundant, and live and the other species of oak and North American timber are sufficiently abundant in every part of the country except the south-western section, bordering on the Nueces, which is thickly timbered. Texas possesses three large and important bays, to wit, Galveston, Matagorda and Arransaso. The Trinity and San Jacinto rivers discharge into the first; the Colorado, La Bahia, Guadaloupe, San Antonio rivers into the second, and the Nueces into the third. The two first of these bays has never less than twelve feet water over the bar at the entrance at the lowest tide, and the last has from eight to nine feet, the whole affording good anchorage and safe harbors. The Brasos river, which is the largest in the country (a singular phenomena indeed), discharges itself directly into the Gulf fifty miles west of the entrance of Galveston, has from six to twelve feet over the bar, as both tide and channel vary. The Sabine and Nechez rivers discharge into an oblong lake or bay into which there is an entrance of eight [4] feet water. Less than *thirty miles canalling* would connect all these bays from the east to Arransaso to the west, and one mile canalling would connect the Brasos river with the western extremity of the Galveston bay.

"Those who emigrate now, will have none of the difficulties of the first settlers. Provisions are cheap and abundant, and roads are opened. The Indians are driven back, and at peace, and the actual experiment of nine years has fully tested the healthiness and value of the country. The government is settled on the true basis of republicanism. The constitution is formed, and the political machine goes on smoothly, and North Americans, on their arrival in this country, will be surprised to find that this government is modelled so exactly after that of the United States, that no material variation of fundamental principles is discoverable. The new setters are represented, and enjoy every civil privilege that reasonable men could ask for. Those who are here are satisfied, and say that this is the most munificent government they ever lived under.

"Slavery is prohibited by the constitution, but contracts made with servants or hirelings in foreign countries are guaranteed, as valid in this State, by a special act of the legislature, in May, 1828.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM G. B. JAMESON, ESQ.

New York, August 15th, 1832.

General William H. Sumner:

Dear Sir,—Having come to a determination to go to Texas soon, I have thought proper to advise you to that effect, knowing that you are one of the trustees of the *Galveston Bay Company*, and a large stockholder also. I have been in Texas on two occasions since 1826, and at each time I spent a twelve month, and have explored all of the colonies, more perhaps than any other person that has ever been there. In the mean time, I have become a citizen; and acquired also an extensive acquaintance with the principal political men, and governors of that country. Whilst I was in Mexico, I was attached to the *American Legation, up to the first of January last.*

Texas is now free to emigration from all countries, also to importations from all, and of every description. I know well the quality of soil, extent of territory, navigation, &c. &c.; and must say that the soil and climate is inferior to none on the continent, let it have cost you what it may. I myself view it as one of the most profitable and facinating speculations that has been offered.

[From the New York Courier and Enquirer of Nov. 8, 1834.]

TEXAS.

This interesting and important district of country is rapidly rising into importance, and destined to become one of the most populous, as it certainly is the richest portion of North America. The climate, soil, and general advantages of this section of country, have of late attracted more of public attention than heretofore; and as all investigations of this kind terminate favorably, there appears to be a very general feeling in favor of seeing this beautiful country annexed to to the United States. The greater portion of it is already granted to companies for colonization, and these companies are, to a great extent, composed of distinguished Mexican citizens, who are alive to the additional value their lands would receive, if annexed to the United States. Among these is SANTA ANNA, the present President of Mexico; and we learn from an undoubted source, that he has already brought before our government the necessity of an early settlement of the boundary between the two countries. What that boundary will ultimately be, it is impossible to say; but it is so obviously the interest, both of Mexico and the United States, to make the Rio Grande the dividing line, that we do not doubt but, sooner or later, that river will be fixed upon by the two governments.

Up to 1827, Texas did not number in all, more than 10,000 inhabitants; and about that period, Col. Austin, an American, commenced the settlement of his extensive grant. We remember well, when, in the winter of 1828, the first settlers left this city, and then the choicest of this land could have been purchased at *one cent an acre!* In the six years which have since elapsed, this colony has so rapidly increased by emigration from the United States, that it now exceeds 36,000 souls, and the best lands are selling from *five* to *fifteen dollars* per acre, while the wild lands command one dollar! This is probably one of the most extraordinary instances of the increase in the value of land which has ever been known; but when the natural advantages of Texas, its climate, soil, and local situation, are considered, its proximity to the United States, and the immense advantages it offers for the culture of the sugar-cane, cotton and tobacco, it is not a matter of surprise. We cannot but express the hope, that the administration, now that the government of Mexico has brought the subject before them, will act promptly in the premises, and secure to our south-western frontier this most desirable section of country.

We learn from every quarter, that emigrants are pouring into Texas from all parts of the United States.

The mildest system of government exists in Texas. Settlers are allowed to carry in almost any amount of property for their own use, duty free—indeed, there is not a custom officer to be found for hundreds of miles, and in many places,merchants import, ad libitum, without molestation. The laws that formerly existed against North Americans, and requiring the settlers to be Catholics, have recently been repealed.

[From the New York Courier of 22d October, 1834.]

TEXAS.

Copy of a Letter written by a high Functionary in the service of the Mexican Government, addressed to a respectable House in the City of New York.

" Mexico, 15th September, 1834.

Dear Sir,—Senor Don S. R******, who was sent to Texas last year, on a private mission, by the government of the Ex Vice President Farias, has just returned to this capital, and reported on the rapid increase of the colony. From his personal observation, it appears that the increase in the population, as well as the improvement and advancement in that vast and beautiful position of our republic, within the last two years, are most extraordinary. He estimates the whole population at 45,000 inhabitants. The arrivals of settlers at Matagorda, Brazoria, and Galveston Bay, from New Orleans, and the ports in the Atlantic, including New York, exceeded, last year, three thousand people; and nearly a similar number had entered the territory of the colony by land, through Natches, to Nacogdoches, from Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and other Western States.

The crops have yielded this year a rich reward to the farmers; for not only their lands have produced plentifully, but, as the agricultural produce cannot keep pace with the sudden increase of consumers, all descriptions of grain brought a good price in the colony. *Wages were likewise very high, on account of the short number of laborers and mechanics, and the great demand for all descriptions of labor.* Capital fell short to carry on the numerous profitable operations of the new comers, but more so to fill up the vast field for enterprise opened in every section of the country.

On the whole, the Texanos have reason to feel by far happier in that colony than the people in the central States of this Republic, being free from all kinds of taxation, from the military, from priestcraft, political intrigue, and, finally, from excitement and commotion. A law, allowing free toleration in religious matters, in addition to the establishment of a judiciary and trial by jury, was sanctioned last spring by the joint legislatures of Coahuila and Texas.

To the present day, the people in Texas have given unequivocal proofs of their determination to maintain their union with the Mexican Republic. Indeed, were they under any other government whatever, they could feel neither more independent, more free, or more exempt from taxes and other shackles, than they are now.

Under such considérations, and having no hopes of an immediate termination of our internal dissensions in these sections of the Republic, I, as well as ten or twelve respectable friends, have come to the determination of selling our property here, and settling in Texas, with our families, next winter. Should you not, therefore, have negotiated my script, I request you not to dispose of a single share under twenty-five cents per acre, as, besides the flattering prospects of the colony, and the friendly disposition of our government towards the faithful, peaceable and industrious Texanes, I find it preferable to locate forty or fifty families in my grant, than to dispose of my script at the low prices you quoted in your favor of the 25th June. I remain, &c.

RED RIVER LAND PRICES.

Little Rock, (Ark.) Dec. 22, 1834.

THE RED RIVER COUNTRY.—We are gratified to learn that the late sale of public lands, at Washington, in Red River Land District, was well attended, and produced a much larger sum than any former one in the Territory. Between $80,000 and $90,000 were received during the sales, and it was expected that more than $40,000 more would be paid in on entries at private sale, within the first week or two after the conclusion of the public sales. There was considerable competition among the purchasers—some lands selling as high as $12 to $13 per acre, and many at $3, $5, $6, $8, &c. All the fractions bordering on Red river were sought after, and brought high prices.

The high prices which the Red river lands have brought, and the great demand for them, may be set down to the credit of the flattering prospect we now have of a speedy removal of the raft. But for that, it is not likely that many of the lands recently sold would have commanded government price, and more than half, probably, would not have found purchasers at any price. Capitalists are crowding to that section of the country in great numbers, and, in a few years, it will no doubt be filled with a dense and wealthy population.

[*The Red river is the northern boundary of Texas, and the lands are as good on one side of it as the other.*—COM.]

New York, January 25, 1835.

Dear Sir,—A letter from *Brasoria* (16th ult.) states that "the Ellen Mar, from New Orleans, loaded with merchandize for this place, was stranded some 12 or 18 miles to the westward of this: passengers all saved: goods nearly all lost. She was near the mouth of the river at night, but could not get in, owing to the difficulty of crossing the bar, as it is only, perhaps, once in 24 hours, with a fair wind and tide, that a vessel can get into the Brasos river, and sometimes for three weeks cannot approach the bar; *whereas, at Galveston there is never any difficulty of entrance. It appears to be conceded by all parties here now, that Galveston must be the commercial point for Texas.* But more of that hereafter; I will merely observe that it is generally supposed no insurance can be effected hereafter on vessels bound to this river from New Orleans, owing to the many losses of late. Insurance of late is just *treble* what it is to Galveston Bay.

Land that was offered some four years ago at fifty cents, cannot now be purchased for five dollars.

A gentleman who owns an estate forty miles up the Brasos, says that he can sell his property or farm, consisting of sixteen hundred acres, a small part of which is cultivated, for ten thousand dollars, one year's credit. Three hundred acres prairie land, near the farm, six miles from the river, was sold, in November, for six and a half dollars per acre. The same man bought thirteen hundred acres last fall, at five and a half dollars; two hundred of which, cleared and planted the present year, produced three thousand bushels of corn, one hundred and fifty bales of cotton, five hundred lbs. each, having only twenty-five negroes to work them. The whole of Texas will be constitutionally organized in January; primary courts, a new system of jurisprudence, trial by jury, &c."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER,

From a respectable Cotton Planter, in Texas, to his Friend in New York, Sept. 1834.

"This is the finest country for the growth of cotton that has yet been discovered. The cotton tree, which in the United States of North America, and in most other countries, requires to be planted annually, need not be planted in this country oftener than once in three or four years; the quality of the cotton is far superior to the best upland cotton of Georgia or Louisiana, and it is supposed by many respectable planters, that, by proper attention, it may be made in many parts of Texas, equal to the Sea Island cotton of Georgia.

"One acre of ground, well cultivated, will produce from 2000 to 2500 lbs. In the cultivation of this article, the labor of children from the ages of 10 to 15, will equal two thirds the labor of a man; hence a father and six children, aged from 10 to 16, will produce more than 25,000 lbs. of cotton, which, at the price of 10 to 12 cts., averaging 11 cts. per lb., would amount to 2750 dollars per annum, in addition to which, the laborers may have much time to cultivate corn, and other articles necessary or convenient for their use. Cotton is always in demand at fair prices, wherever it is produced; hence the planter need not be at a loss how to realize great and immediate profits for his labor."

In addition to several excellent packet vessels, lately established, to ply between New Orleans and Texas, arrangements have been made to establish a large steamboat, which is now advertised as a regular packet between New Orleans, Galveston Bay, and other ports in the Gulf of Mexico: these, with other steamboats already established on some of the principal rivers in Texas, will afford cheap and rapid conveyances for emigrants from New Orleans.

[*The above letter is copied into this work for the reason that its circulation has been general, and because it is our wish to give all the information, from various sources,* *which we have been able to collect. We cannot, however, allow our readers to take its statements without qualification. He says the cotton tree need not be planted but once in three or four years. This may be so in the more southern parts, but in the Galveston Bay tract, the white frosts of winter generally kills it.*

The writer also says, that an acre of land, well cultivated, will produce from 2000 to 2500 pounds of cotton. This means seed cotton, and not that which is fit for the bale.

The steamboat Connecticut, which is referred to in the last paragraph, has been found to draw too much water, and has changed her route to Mobile. A smaller boat will probably be put on the route; but there is no other mode of conveyance at present, than by the sail packets, which run constantly from New Orleans to all the ports of Texas.

If we contrast the statement of Mr. Fortune's letter with this we shall probably, see the propriety of these remarks. From that letter, which follows, we have, probably, a candid and fair account of the part of the country he travelled over, from a gentleman who writes under his own signature, and is every way to be relied on—and shall come to the conclusion that corn will not come up in Texas unless the seed is planted, nor parch without being put into the fire.—Com.]

[From the (Philadelphia) United States Gazette.]

TEXAS.

Public inquiry and attention have recently been directed to Texas, in consequence of numerous publications, holding out strong inducements to emigrants. From all we can learn in relation to this country, it possesses peculiar advantages for agriculturists. It borders on our south-western frontier, and is separated from the State of Louisiana, by the river Sabine. The territory is equal, in extent, to that of France—is watered by fine rivers, and possesses a soil surpassed by no other in richness and fertility. Wheat, rye, oats, as well as cotton and tobacco, are raised in great abundance. The climate is represented as mild and healthy, there being no marshes and swamps, except in the neighborhood of rivers, which occasionally overflow in the spring of the year, [*and on the sea-coast.*—Com.]

The face of the country is generally level, and a great portion of it consists of immense prairies. The sea-coast is not less than 350 miles long, and affords, by means of its numerous rivers, intercourse at a great number of points, with the gulf of Mexico. Texas, according to late writers, has been formed into a separate judicial district, with a native of the United States at the head of it, and an organization, of course, similar to our own. The proceedings are required to be in the English language, and the right of trial by jury is secured. Religious freedom is also enjoyed by law. The province is not affected by the political changes and commotions in Mexico; and the centre of it is 1500 miles distant from the city of Mexico. It is stated, that at present there is not a Mexican soldier in it. [*This provision in the law of 26th March last, was repealed the same session.*—Com.] In regard to the society of the interior of Texas, Mr. J. W. Fannin, Jr. the correspondent of the Columbus Enquirer, declares that "he has never seen as good in any new and frontier settlement in the United States. It is true, many bad men have fled from justice to this country, and have found a safe asylum in that of Texas. The same objection may be and was raised against Georgia and Alabama, in their early settlements, and indeed every state in the West." He concluded by urgently recommending his friends to abandon the *gullies* of Georgia, and emigrate to Texas; and in the account by the trustees of the Texas Land Company, this region is called the paradise of brute animals, and the land of promise to man.

[From the (Alabama) Montgomery Advertiser, February 10, 1835.]

TEXAS.

As many of our citizens appear to be determined to leave the State at all hazards, and as the legislature has done nothing to alter that determination, it would be well to be looking about for such information as may enlighten the emigrant, and assist his judgment in selecting a new home. Texas has been mentioned as offering good prospects. The only material objection to this country, is the unsettled state of the Mexican Republic, of which it is a part. It will, probably, become either an independent State, or be annexed to the Union. If the former could be peaceably accomplished, all objections would vanish; and if the latter were a certain event, the temptation to the emigrant would be irresistible. Descriptions of this country vary in some considerable degree, but all assert very high advantages. Some writers represent the country as *generally* fertile, producing in abundance, cotton, sugar-cane, corn and other staples of the southern United States and of Mexico. Others say, that, though taken as a whole, Texas cannot be considered a fertile country, yet on so vast an extent, there are very many fine tracts. Red river will probably admit of settlements along its whole length, and the same may be said of several of the other streams. The climate must vary considerably in a country which extends over twelve [6] degrees of latitude, but the air is said to be pure and serene, and the country healthy. A great part consists of open plains, exposed to the winds of the north, and the atmosphere is cooled considerably lower than the places on the same parellel more to the eastward.

This country is bounded north by Arkansas Territory, east by Louisiana, south by the Gulf of Mexico and State of Tamaulipas, and west by the State of Chihuahua. Its greatest length is from the mouth of the Rio Grande del Norte, eight hundred miles; its greatest breadth, from the north-west angle of the State of Louisiana, in a south-west direction to the Rio Grande del Norte, five hundred miles. It extends over two hundred and forty thousand square miles, and is equal in extent to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. The following is from a recent publication:

Texas has received a large proportion of its population from the United States, extensive grants of land having been made by the Mexican government to American settlers. Mr. Austin, a native of Connecticut, under the auspices of the government, has settled large tracts on the Rio Colorado, and Rio Brasos, with colonists from the United States. These colonies are flourishing, and the town of San Felipe de Austin is a place of considerable trade. It is situated on the Rio Brasos, 40 or 50 miles above its mouth, and small vessels may come up to this place. The eastern part of Texas is principally settled by Americans from the United States. St. Antonio and Nacogdoches, are villages in the interior. The former contains about 2500 inhabitants; the latter about 500.

The principal rivers, besides the Red river, which separates Texas from Arkansas, and the Sabine, which divides it from Louisiana, are the Rio Colorado, about 500 miles, Rio del Norte, 1600, Rio Trinidad, San Antonio and Neches, besides which the country is well watered with other considerable streams and several lakes. On the sea-coast are Matagorda, Sabine, Galveston, and other bays and inlets. The population of Texas is rapidly increasing, and the trade with the United States, particularly with New Orleans and New York, is considerable and flourishing.

Negotiations are said to have commenced, between our government and that of Mexico, for the purchase of the territory lying between the Red and Sabine rivers.

The Compiler introduces the following articles from a Mobile paper of 7 Dec. last for two purposes,—the first, to show with what jealousy Alabama views the Texas, and attempts to prevent the tide of emigration which sets from it, by ridicule. The ague and fever is not common in Texas, except it be on the low lands of the sea-coast and rivers.

TEXAS.

The schooner Empress arrived here yesterday from the river Brasos, and reports, that she left schooner William, for this port, to sail soon. Steamboat Ocean, for Tampico, put into the river on the 27th December, to land the captain and the cargo of schooner Saline, wrecked on Galveston Island, on the 18th ult. Crew and cargo saved.

The Colony was in a very flourishing condition, and great numbers of emigrants arriving daily. The supposed crop of cotton made on the river Brasos, will be about 7000 bales against 4000 last season.

Emigrants to Texas.—There are seventy-six persons now on board the steamboat Convoy, lying in this port, who came down as deck passengers, that are on their way to Texas, with the intention of settling in that country. Most of them are hardy and robust in their looks, but we saw some among their number who appear to be running before the fever and ague, and not so far before it either, but that they have a grapple with it now and then. The country to which they are fleeing, we are inclined to think, is exactly the place where they will get cornered. We have heard it said, that even chickens and turkies in that country have touches of the ague; and at certain seasons of the year, these gallant and stately birds may be seen stalking around their domicils in a perfect state of nakedness, their feathers having been shaken entirely off. This, of course, is hearsay—but we have not a friend in Alabama, that we would counsel to leave a comfortable abode here, to make trial of either the happiness or the ills of that New World. But still we would give a "God Speed" to those who cannot restrain their desire to make the adventure.

[From the Boston American Traveller.]

Emigration to Texas is becoming epidemic in Alabama. Hundreds of families have gone and are about to go. Some of the richest planters in the State are moving to Texas.

[From the New York Journal of Commerce, January, 1835.]

TEXAS.

We have seen a letter from Nacogdoches, in the Province of Texas, to a gentleman in this city, written by a Pennsylvanian settled there, dated December 21, 1834, from which the following extract is made. This town is 120 [110] miles from Nachitoches in Louisiana, and about 60 miles from the river Sabine, the boundary between the United States and Mexico. Nachitoches (called Nackitosh) is the nearest post town to Nacogdoches, so that the settlers there have heretofore received their letters by private conveyance from that point.

"The tide of emigration from the United States is great, and the country is settling rapidly. These lands may some day become as valuable per acre, as the little farms they leave in their native country, and the period of the land's becoming valuable, depends on the continuation of the emigration. As soon as the Colonies are filled, according to the agreements with the government made by the *Empresarios*, these lands will immediately rise in value. Texas produces cotton that in the Liverpool market commands 3 to 4 cents more than the best Louisiana. The country is so filled with new comers, as to make produce very high for home consumption. Pork is at $4 50 per cwt.; corn $1 per bushel, and other articles in proportion, except beef, which, being so very abundant, is not affected in price.

"I should like to receive occasionally some Philadelphia newspapers. There has been an order lately issued by the post-master general in Mexico, to establish a mail from this place to the river Sabine. As soon as the official order is received by the political chief here, this mail route will be established to meet the mails of the United States at the Sabine, which will give us a regular opportunity of communicating with our friends."

[*Arrangements will soon be made for a continuous mail from the United States to the dividing line; and in which case, if the postage is paid to the Sabine, the letter will be forwarded.*—COM.]

Mexico, 6th April, 1834.

With regard to internal improvements, independent of the many regulations adopted to promote the cleanliness of the cities, as well as the lower orders, the executive has published various decrees to facilitate internal communications, by improving the roads, and encouraging the establishment of stages for travellers, or wagons for the conveyance of goods in the interior of the country, on Mexican or foreign account.

The repeal of the law which, under the government of Bustamente, forbade all foreigners, Anglo-Americans in particular, to acquire lands in Texas or any other part of the Republic, and the privilege granted by the federal government, to Europeans or Americans who would feel disposed to settle and hold landed property in any of the states or territories of the Union, have given an indescribable impulse to the influx of emigration. Thus we see that the whole country bordering on the Rio Grande del Norte and the Sabine river is fast filling up, while the rich and beautiful coasts of California are attracting the attention of bold and enterprising adventurers.

Again, the government, wishing to restore public credit at home and abroad, has submitted to the Congress a bill for the organization of the Credito Publico and sinking fund.

LETTER FROM MR. BARTLETT,

Of New York, to the Compiler, December 30, 1834.

Sir,—In reply to your inquiries, I observe that it was with great astonishment I read in the National Intelligencer of the 19th of November, a communication in answer to the inquiries of "Mentor," relative to Texas. To one who knows any thing of the country, the statement therein contained would appear too absurd to be deserving of notice; but as the communicator subscribes himself a "Returned Emigrant," (the only thing, by the way, that can give the least weight to his assertions, which have already been properly replied to in the paper in which they were published, by the trustees themselves,) for the benefit of the unacquainted who are desirous of emigrating, I will make a few remarks of my own.

Having just returned from Texas, where I have been travelling for nearly a year past, and have had daily opportunities of observing the conditions of the people, with your permission, I will take up, and answer as briefly as possible, some of the statements of the "Returned Emigrant," from my own knowledge, who, in my opinion, has been speaking of a place he has never seen.

In the first place, he says "the grant of Zavala is of doubtful validity, as many gentlemen of Massachusetts can testify."

There is no pretence for this assertion. This tract of land was granted with all the due forms and requisites of law, to Lorenzo de Zavala, (at present, chief of the Mexican Legation to France and Rome), as General Sumner, of Massachusetts (if the appeal is to him), well knows, and can furnish the evidence of.

Of Vehlein's and Burnet's grants, he says he knows nothing, and that he never heard either their names or their grants mentioned in Texas. This is sufficient proof that his knowledge or information of the subject cannot be very extensive, otherwise he would have known that the grants of Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet are consolidated into one, under the title of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company; and, moreover, at the time of my return to the United States, Judge Burnet was residing at his delightful seat at Galveston. Being one of the principal men there, it is not likely (where there are, comparatively speaking, so few inhabitants) that his name would remain unknown to those who have ever visited the country.

Again he says the Galveston Bay Company is often inquired for, and poor, starving emigrants seek, but seek in vain, for either the principals or agents of it.

I would ask, where do they seek? if it is in New York, there is Anthony Dey, Esq., President of the Company, who, by public advertisements, guarantees a title to all that buy of him; if it is in Texas, there is Captain Hotchkiss at Nacogdoches, agent of the Company, and Major

George A. Nixon, who is appointed the government Commissioner of titles for the Galveston colony, constantly engaged in the exercise of their respective functions.

Again he says, "allowing a safe arrival at the coast of Texas, lucky the man who finds a spot within one or two hundred miles from it fit to reside upon."

Is it possible that one who has lived in the country, as the "Returned Emigrant" says he has, can make such an assertion?

If the "Returned Emigrant" had ever been on the coast, he would have experienced the delightful breeze that springs up every morning from the south-west, and prevails throughout the greater part of the year: he either wilfully misrepresents, or is not aware of the circumstance of a steamboat having brought out, the last summer, a number of passengers from New Orleans, to spend the unhealthy months of their own city, on the delightful island of Galveston and its vicinity. At the town of La Bahia, only forty-five miles from the coast, there are no musquitoes, and on the road between Anahuac and Liberty, thirty miles distant, you will meet a comfortable farm on an average, every five miles. I have had opportunities of witnessing the condition of the people, who are represented to be so miserable. If I have had occasion to eat, I have partaken of coffee, corn bread, milk, butter, bacon, &c.; yet it is asserted that there is no spot for one or two hundred miles from the coast, fit to reside upon. Preposterous! Two other circumstances tending to confirm me in my belief that the "Returned Emigrant" has never seen the country, are, that he makes Matamoras one hundred and twenty miles up the Del Norte, whereas it is only forty, a distance he would have very readily perceived, had he ever performed the route, or even looked at the map. Besides, he calls the town a "Sink of death," which is most remarkable for its healthfulness, fever being hardly known there.

He would likewise insinuate that citizens of the United States are prevented from colonizing in Texas, into which hundreds are entering every month, and attempts to support it by a circumstance which has not the least bearing on the subject at all, viz. the imprisonment of Austin.

Colonel Austin was imprisoned for advising his colonists to form a state government for themselves, whether the Mexican government permitted it or not,—a high offence, which would be cognizable by the courts of the United States, and for which, in some countries, imprisonment would be considered a light punishment. That land of bondage, as he calls it, I have frequently heard acknowledged by the inhabitants to be the easiest governernment they have ever lived under. The government is not only mild, like the climate, but the country is most beautiful in its appearance. In the winter season, the prairies are alive with geese and brant, and the bays, rivers and bayous, swarm with every variety of water fowl, not excepting the canvas back; and the hunter, whenever he feels disposed to go out, almost always has his toil rewarded with a fine deer. The cattle keep fat all the year round, without the trouble of preparing hay for their sustenance in winter, at which time they retire to the bottom lands to feed on the cane-brakes and wild rye, and return with their young as soon as spring has refreshed the growth of the prairies.

The "Returned Emigrant" is desirous of impressing on the minds of emigrants that they will be subject to all the obligations and external forms of a bigoted priestcraft: what I have to say in answer to this, is, that religious toleration is allowed by law and the treaty with the United States; and that, so far from being priest-ridden, I never met with a church priest or preacher in either Galveston Bay or Austin's colony.

Now such being the case, how can priestcraft exist? It is a shameful sin that this delightful and fertile country should be so basely slandered, which, had it not been for the enterprising genius of Americans, would still have remained the undisturbed retreat of the wild beast and the savage. In conclusion, I would advise this gentleman

not to show himself in Texas again, after the gross libel
he has uttered, lest he be made acquainted with that sal
utary discipline, "Lynch's Law."

But, since he says that he has resided in the country
probably he has already experienced its beneficial effect
which would most readily account for his antipathy
that land of promise.

LETTER FROM JAMES FORTUNE, ESQ.

Of Weathersfield, Connecticut, dated New York, Ja
16, 1835.

W. H. Sumner, Esq.:

Dear Sir,—Having passed the last summer in travelli
through the north-eastern part of Texas, from which I ha
lately returned, perhaps I can give some general ide
which may be interesting to you, and those desirous to e
grate to that country.

I entered Texas, by the way of Red river and Naco
doches, in the fore part of June; at a time when the cro
in general were in their youth, and the planter was loo
ing with an eager eye at the prospects of his yearly
come, which at that time bid fair to be abundant, for
means he had employed. Corn was then near toppin
cotton was from eighteen inches to two feet in heig
oats were turning to their perfect color; in short,
crops were in their usual state of forwardness for the
riod of the season.

The land laying between the Sabine and Nacogdoch
and for twenty miles west of the latter place, are ter
Red Lands, the soil being of a strong alluvial nat
and quite red, different in its appearance from any la

I have seen. They produce cotton, corn, oats and potatoes. The oats I think surpass in quantity any I ever saw. The farmer expends but little manual labor in cultivating his lands. Corn they plough three to four times, which is all the labor they put upon it, until time to gather the crop, and produces, without manure or hoeing, about forty bushels to the acre. [*With proper cultivation, it has produced seventy.*—Cox.]

Potatoes yield abundantly, especially the sweet potatoes, which are natives of a similar climate. The planter, in general, is well repaid for his toil. This section of Texas I think is generally healthy, more so than any part of our Southern States. It is generally considered by the settlers in the lower country, (that is to say, the section near the Gulf of Mexico), if they resort to this in the warm season, they are not liable to the diseases so prevalent in all southern countries at that time in the year. The water in this tract of country is good, perhaps none better. From Nacogdoches to the Trinity river, there are some fine lands. I travelled up that stream some twenty-five or thirty-miles, explored a part of the tract granted to D. G. Burnet, Esq., which I found to answer all I had anticipated. The face of the country is generally rolling, about one half prairie, the remainder timbered. The grass on the prairie was from one to four feet in height, and afforded abundant feed for large herds of cattle through the year, feeding on the high lands in summer and the reverse in winter. The timbered land was covered with various kinds of wood which are familiar in our Eastern States, viz. oaks of various kinds, maple, ash, hickory, pine, &c. Some of these trees grow to immense size. You find here in abundance the wild grape, and plums: the fig and peach grow to perfection,—From the Trinity I crossed the head waters of the St. Jacinto into Austin's Grant, travelled through the centre of this tract to Harrisburg; in my course passed many valuable lands. In this country I saw many fine specimens of cotton, indigo, corn, and potatoes. Indigo, however, is not cultivated to much extent, but sufficient for the consumption of the country. Vessels drawing from five and a half to six feet water, can approach Harrisburg, and for ten to twenty miles above, there is sufficient water for vessels of the same draft. I name this draft, as it is not often you can pass Red Fish Bar with more water, although there is much more water in the river, to the point I name. The distance from Harrisburg to Anahuac is eighty miles. In your course, you cross the river St. Jacinto at Mr. Lynch's, where there is a fine boat and good attendance. This ferry is at the junction of Buffalo Bayou and St. Jacinto. Mr. Lynch, who has been a resident of that country for twelve or thirteen years, was formerly a merchant of this city. There is located here a fine steam saw-mill, of which judge Burnet was the founder, and which he still continues to hold. This gentleman resides one and a half mile from this.

The next place of note is LIBERTY. This town is situated on the river Trinity, on rolling ground, which runs bluff to the river; there is much good land near this town, and between this and ANAHUAC. There are some large herds of cattle. One planter who resides near Anahuac is said to have five thousand head, and, the last season, branded eighteen hundred calves. Anahuac is a small place, situated on the north-eastern part of Galveston bay; there are some thirty frame houses, but most of them are unoccupied; about ten families reside here. Since the difficulty in 1830, this place has been going down. The last season, a little spur was realized by the arrival of emigrants from New York.

From Liberty to Nacogdoches, 150 or 160 miles, there is a fine country, as well watered as any I have ever seen; there are many fine mill sites &c. The land is generally a sandy loam with a clay foundation; there is much of the wild peach tree, as it is termed, in this section of country, which indicates a good quality of land, and likewise the cane-brake. The timbered lands are generally covered with heavy timber, of different kinds, similar to our Eastern States. This country imitates many of the best towns-ships of land, which I am familiar with on Connecticut river, with the exception of stones: of these, there are none to be found; that is to say, to any extent, in any part of the country through which I passed. Nearly all the vegetables we are accustomed to the use of here, and many which are not familiar to people in general, are produced in Texas. From my own observation, and from that acquired from persons of long residence in this section of country, I should think it to be a healthy place, which is more than I think of the lower country near the bay and coast, except to people from southern climes. If the emigrant can provide for the first six or twelve months, he may rely on a fair prospect through life of a comfortable and handsome living, with the industry which is required by all in the same profession, and I may safely say with much less labor than is necessary for a person residing in this climate, merely to gain a living. I do not mean to say that all lands in this country are of a choice kind; far from it. There are many poor lands, as is the case in all countries, but such selections can be made as cannot fail to suit all reasonable wishes of the emigrant. One half of the colonies which I travelled over, must be considered as very superior land.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES FORTUNE.

[From the Newburyport Herald of Feb. 18, 1832.]

We have taken occasion once before, to allude to the subject of emigration to Texas, and expressed some doubts, whether the prospect to the emigrant thither from the northern States was altogether so flattering. We have since that time examined the subject more carefully, and have come to the conclusion that, if our advice were asked by any one who proposed a removal, we should freely give it in favor of Texas, before any portion of our own country.

The colonist in the Texas, without losing any political privileges, or which he would secure in the now unsettled portions of the United States, will find, in the Texas, a soil equally as good, and a climate, and access to a market, far better.

[The Compiler cannot refuse admission to the following rural letter, verbatim literatim et punctuatim, written to New York three years ago. It will be amusing to some, and interesting to others. All classes of emigrants want information from their own countrymen, that they can rely on. To the Irish, the statistics of Jemima and Mary Toll will probably be of more value than all the rest of the book, especially that relating to the fecundity of the cattle. There is no breach of confidence in publishing what appears to be a private letter, as it was publicly circulated in that city.—Com.]

Dear Redmond

Sir,—I am to inform you that I arrived here in safety thanks be to God, after a passage both lingering and disagreeable, being nine weeks from New York to N. Orleans and only three days to Matagorda, the very bay Captain McCarthy talked of, which I did not expect so near where Jemy was, although Neueces bar, or the Arransas, which bar is from nine to ten feet; if a company of you joined and chartered a vessel, drawing from four to six feet could ride in at any time take you if you can, Do not come to the Mattagorda, and happy to inform you that, contrary to Mr. John Waters letter to me to Orleans which near had like to reach me, I found this country equal to what was said in the hand bills and better again, do not believe Martin McGloin or any other person who went from here; poor lazy creatures having no inclination to look after any prudence or industry, really I was astonished when I come amongst the colonists to see them all full of comfort, plenty of Corn, bread Mush Butter Milk and beef and what perhaps those who sent this false report never enjoyed before. As for pigs and fowls they are as numerous as flees. Martin McGloin ought never show his face in any society as for Henry he acted the villin as is already explained in other letters, felonously striving to rob Carrol and the Priest of their cows. John Parrot and Henry met me at the bar, is well, has a large stock of cattle of every description. The freight from Orleans here is 50 cents pr foot, a Barrel from $2 to $ 60. Bring some boxes of glass, bars soap, plenty candle wick, bring seeds of every kind, shallots; bring cross cut, whip, and frame saws. Let Simon not delay to come as he will find every thing according to your wishes. Bring good guns, and powder and shot of every kind.

This is letter is for both of you—Bring as many cart wheels and cart mountings as you can, Chains for oxen; no timber, as this is the country for timber of every kind. Bring good Ploughs. Carts rate at $100, here. Bring a supply of sugar coffee and tea and flour for 8 or 9 months; if you have any to spare, you get your price. Gun locks and every thing belonging to locks, screws of every kind, plates for screws Your goods both small and large and every little article you can pack. Pots, pans with covers, ovens &c, white muslin both white and brown in pieces. Bring tin cups. Porringers. Any man working 2 days in the week may take his gun and fishing rod the remainder and his horse. Bring your clean english blankets both second hand and new, as you'l get a horse for one fowl. Bring a candle mould. Bring Jerry a good long fowling piece.

Mrs. McMains bring as much tickin as you can, as they wear it in trowses here. Mrs. McMains do not be daunted the prospect here is good. Bring your beds. you'll have no work, your daughters can milk 50 cows for you, and make butter which is 25 cents a lb here, in Matamoras 50 cents. A cow has 2 calfes in 10 months a sheep and goat 3 yearlings in 15 months. The healthiest country in the world. The richest land will show like Gentlemens domains in Ireland. Fine wood and water as in any part of the world As for game and fowl and fish of every kind no man can believe, but those that see. Go to Mr. John or Martin Wates 49 Duand Street, and they will more fully let you know.

Give our love to all inquiring friends

Yours until death.

JEMIMA AND MARY TOLL.

P. S. Bring corn mills, do not bring such a mill as I brought, as it is only a pepper mill. Bring mills with handles, such as you see in chatham square. Show this letter to John Waters. you get a league 3 miles square a labor of 177 acres a town lot of 1 acre square. Single men one fourth each gets when of age in addition to, you pay $100 to government and has six years to pay, they take Colony produce, the best laws in the world. The indians are very kind and loving to each other. I was at two parties here we assemble and amuse ourselves.

[From the N. York American, Oct 25, 1834.]

TEXAS.

This interesting country, at the present moment, attracts so much attention, and calls forth so many inquiries, that we are assured we shall render an acceptable service to the public in presenting the following information, *derived from a source of accurate personal knowledge.*

Under the Spanish dominion, Texas was a separate province, occupied by three military posts, La Bahia, St. Antonio de Bexar, and Nacogdoches; and settlements of Mexicans were formed around each, which grew into a considerable town at Bexar, of about 3000, and at Nacogdoches and La Bahia into villages of about 500 and 800 inhabitants. This number has not increased, and forms at present nearly the amount of the Mexican and Spanish population in Texas: an addition of 1000 would include the whole.

The country at large, in all its beauty and fertility, was left unoccupied, except by the wild horse, the deer, and the buffalo; all of which, amidst luxuriant natural pastures, have multiplied to an extent almost incredible. An intelligent trader among the Indians in the interior regions of that country, upon being asked how many buffalo he had seen in one herd, replied, one million, meaning literally what he said; but it may be restricted to a declaration, that they could not be counted. The deer are still more numerous, and that noble animal, the horse, roves the country in gregarious masses, with all the pride and majesty of his Arabian ancestors. The progress of population has not diminished the number of either, but only limited their range.

Texas was but little known to our countrymen, until seen by the gallant bands who entered it, in aid of the patriot cause at different periods of the Mexican struggle for independence. They saw a country equal to France in extent, intersected with numerous rivers running hundreds of miles into the interior, producing, in its various climate and soil, all the commercial staples of the whole American continent. They brought home this knowledge, and gave an account of its beauty, fertility and salubrity; and many were tempted to seek an abode there, in spite of the prohibition of the then existing laws.

Foremost in this enterprise was Moses Austin, who, about twelve years since, obtained from the Commandant at Bexar, permission to introduce settlers, and repaired to the United States to procure them; but dying on the route, left to his son, Col. Stephen F. Austin, the fulfilment of his undertaking. On this gentleman's arrival at Bexar, he found the Commandant indisposed to comply with his engagements; and the revolution being accomplished, and a new order of things established, he determined to proceed to the city of Mexico, and there renew the proposal of introducing settlers into Texas. The result was the passage of a general colonization law, authorizing particular districts of country to be assigned to contractors who would undertake to populate the country. This law laid the foundation of a system which was made more liberal and extended by that of the State of Coahuila and Texas; under which were made the grants which have been made the subject of so much enterprise.

Col. Austin was the first to begin colonizing, and laid the foundation of the extensive settlements now existing in Texas. But others soon followed; and Zavala, Burnet and Vehlein were equally successful in their application for lands. They selected the district of country immediately on the boundary line of the United States, lying between the Sabine to the east, the St. Jacinto and Navasota to the west, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, running north about 200 miles.

Austin's settlement is contiguous, and lies on the western line of Vehlein and Burnet, and embraces the rivers Brasos and Colorado. Grants have been made to others in different sections of the country, more remote from our borders, and all of good land. But the settlements from the Sabine to the Colorado being continued, and nearer to us, are better known, and can be described with more certainty.

Texas in general is a prairie country, having all the streams skirted by timber. This is more particularly its character after passing the Trinity, and as you advance to the north-west, the prairies are of vast extent. *But in the grants of Zavala, Burnet, and Vehlein, there is less of prairie and more of the woodland. They abound in beautiful natural meadows of dimensions from one to five hundred and a thousand acres; producing a luxuriant herbage at all seasons, but have a large proportion of woodland without undergrowth, affording fine pasturage, and presenting the aspect of splendid lawns and parks, prepared with the taste and labor of high cultivation.*

On some of the rivers, the Brasos for instance, are dense forests, but they are never found on the high lands.

The mildness of the climate is such that no provision is made for horses, cattle, hogs, nor for any stock on a farm. Nature's ample store is sufficient throughout the year, and at all seasons they fatten on the natural pastures; of course they multiply rapidly, and Texas may be called the paradise of animals of the inferior order; and to man it is the land of promise.

That splendid plant, the Indian Corn, grows throughout in perfect majesty, almost scorning the aid of the hand of man. From the Gulf, to an average distance of 70 miles, the country is level, and forms the sugar district. At this point, about latitude 30 degrees, the surface becomes undulating, and wheat, rye and oats can be raised; and one degree further north, produces abundant harvests. Cotton is cultivated from the Gulf to the Red river, and yields largely, with a staple uniformly good; and, near the Gulf, in length and fineness of staple, approaches the Sea Island cotton. This is the great crop of Texas, and even at this period, equals 10,000 bales. Sugar has for many years been made on the Trinity, within Vehlein's grant, and the cane ripens several inches higher than in Louisiana. Tobacco grows luxuriantly every where, and may become an important article of export.* The grape is universal throughout the country, and in great variety and sweetness. In Vehlein's grant, an attempt has been made to cultivate the native vines, and the experiment has shown that wine of the best quality can be made from them, and we may promise ourselves, at a future day, to have American wines from this country, rivaling those of Europe.

But there is one remarkable character which it possesses over the country within the same latitudes in the United States. *It is without swamps or marshes.* Whatever insalubrity you find, arises from the inundations of the spring season, and of course is confined to the rivers; and this ceases when you go above the flat country.

A country so inviting is of course rapidly settling, and it is estimated to have at this time a population of 30,000 Anglo-Americans. The law of the 6th April, 1830, which prohibited the citizens of the United States from entering the country as colonists being repealed, they are now going in and receiving titles to the finest lands in the world, at prices so low as to enable the poorest to acquire a large farm. A further inducement to emigrate to this delightful region is held out by the law now in operation, forming Texas into a separate judicial district, with a judge of ability, a native of the United States, and an organization of courts similar to our own. The proceedings are required to be in the ENGLISH LANGUAGE, and the right of trial by jury is secured in all cases, civil or criminal. By another law it is declared *that no man shall be molested on account of his religious or political opinions, thereby securing the rights of conscience and religious freedom.* These two liberal laws were passed at the last session of the State Legislature, and the first by the federal Congress, and approved by President St. Anna; showing fully the friendly feelings entertained towards Texas by the state and national authorities.

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* The Government monopoly upon the cultivation of tobacco is taken off, and its culture is free to all. What the consumption is, may be surmised from the following authentic account.

GREAT CIGAR MANUFACTORY

AT THE CITY OF MEXICO, BEFORE THE RESTRICTIONS UPON ITS CULTURE WERE REMOVED.

"The city of Mexico contains a great manufactory of cigars, and a tobacco warehouse, which is a government monopoly, and produces a yearly revenue of near six millions of dollars. From five to six thousand are employed in making cigars, the greater part of whom reside within the walls; the buildings are of brick, two stories high, covering an area of six square acres; the store for the sale of the cigars is nearly in the centre of the city, to which, from the manufactory, three hundred mules are constantly conveying the cigars, packed in bundles of one thousand, or in large boxes, holding fifty thousand."

All is now quiet throughout the republic. Texas is never affected by the political changes and commotions in Mexico. The agitated wave is calmed before it reaches a shore so distant from the places where the storms arise. The disturbances which took place two years ago, from outrages committed by the military have all subsided, and quiet long since restored. At present there is not a Mexican soldier in Texas, and it is more than probable that none will ever be sent there; certainly not beyond what may be necessary to protect the revenue.

The population of Texas is remarkably good for a border country. You cannot expect to find there the refinement and courtesy of older communities; but the virtue of hospitality is nowhere more manifested. Those who imagine that Texas is without the higher requisites for social intercourse, are greatly mistaken. From the Sabine to the Colorado, and from the Nacogdoches road to the Gulf, embracing the colonies of Austin and those of Zavala and Vehlein, good farms are opened, comfortable houses erected, many of them large and commodious, and inhabited by as intelligent and respectable families as any country can afford. Many villages have sprung up, exhibiting a growing commerce, with its universal attendants, refinement and luxury. But this early and rapid advancement of Texas will not seem strange, when we reflect that 30,000 Americans are there occupying a fertile soil under a genial climate, and, with their accustomed energy and enterprise, are developing the resources of one of nature's favored regions.

It may be well to add, that the mode of acquiring lands in the different colonies is simple, and the titles made secure and in fee. The assignment of lands has been to persons called Empresarios, (contractors,) who stipulate to introduce a designated number of families within a given time, *and no person can, within this period, acquire lands in the district of the Empresario without his consent.* This consent is obtained by a certificate, stating the family received and the quantity of land allowed them, which is presented to a commissioner appointed by government for making titles, who immediately orders a survey, and, upon its return, makes a deed to the settler, *and the title passes directly from the State to him.* The law allows a married man to take out a title for a sitio, equal to 4428 English acres; and a single man one fourth of that quantity, with a privilege of extending it to a sitio when he gets married; and a foreigner, marrying a Mexican woman, is entitled to one third more. On receiving the deed from the commissioner, the colonist takes an oath to support the constitution and laws of the country, by which two acts he becomes naturalized. There is no tax on land nor any other property, and the emigrants are allowed to introduce all articles for their own use free of duty.

SHORT ACCOUNT OF TEXAS,

By MR. URBIETTA, *a Spanish Gentleman, now residing in Newburyport, who has visited it.*

The province of Texas, in Mexico, which has been, for so many years, the abode of wandering tribes of Indians, is a country peculiarly favored by nature; such being its situation, that it produces the fruits peculiar to both the temperate and tropical regions.

It is not destitute of minerals, while it abounds in those riches, which, to a community of farmers and laborers, are better and surer than all mines; for among its various productions, are coffee, sugar, and especially cotton, which last is of a better quality and more abundant than that of the States either at the south or north of it. It yields, when cleared, 44 per cent., and its staple is not equalled by that of any other region. Grapes of a fine quality are found in a wild state, which, if improved by cultivation, would doubtless produce an excellent wine. Maize and rice are very abundant, particularly near the coast and the mouths of the Colorado, Rio Grande, Bahia, &c. The growth of timber and other trees is remarkable for its variety. Every kind of grazing animal, cattle, horses and sheep, find ample ranges and the richest pasturage. The province abounds in rivers of considerable magnitude and very conveniently distributed. These afford at present the only suitable channels for transporting products and merchandise.

The climate is warm, but temperate and healthful, excepting in places bordering upon the Rio del Norte, and extending from the coast, a distance of some sixty or seventy miles, where malignant fevers sometimes occur. The temperature varies very little, thin clothing sufficing throughout the year.

There are five settlements in Texas; three American, one composed chiefly of Irish, and the fifth Mexican.

The most important colony of Texas is, at present, that of Mr. Austin. But if we consider the influx of emigration from the United States into those sections of territory nearest Louisiana, these colonies will be presented in a highly interesting point of view. Their commerce will be with the maritime and inland States of the north, which cannot but be highly flourishing, nor fail of giving them advantages superior to those enjoyed by the territories to the west of them.

The established religion of Mexico is Roman Catholic, but religious toleration is provided for by law in Texas. The language of the inhabitants is chiefly English, though Spanish is the language of public bodies.

The population was recently 30,000 souls, two thirds of whom are Americans.

I do not know how extensively machines for clearing cotton have been introduced into Texas. The want of such conveniences must greatly enhance the cost of exporting the article.

Saw-mills cannot fail of being profitable in this country. The woods are of a most beautiful description, and will soon supply the United States with materials for ornamental work of the richest character. The Palo de Moral is held in as high esteem as the wood of Campeachy; and a great market will be opened for it in Europe.

Those who emigrate to Texas from the United States will never regret the exchange. The means of living are afforded in abundance, and of the choicest kinds. Meats and fruits of all descriptions can be procured with little labor or trouble. The rigors of winter are never felt, and the temperature is delightfully equable and mild. They may enjoy in Texas their own customs, and their own religion, and live under institutions as free as those of the country they leave. The troubles of the Mexican republic are not felt in Texas. In fine, many who emigrate from the United States, may exchange sterility for fruitfulness, cold for warmth, and sickness for health.

February 25, 1835.

LETTER FROM WM. WILLSON, OF BOSTON.

Clowper's Point (San Jacinto, Galveston Bay), Aug. 18, 1834.

My Dear Father and Mother,—I am sorry to inform you that Mary, after a serious illness of nearly three months and a half, died on the 24th July. In fact, she has not been well since she left Boston; she was complaining from the time she left home, and we are all confident that her decease was in no way forwarded by, or incidental to the climate. I do not think it is more unhealthy than in Massachusetts, for we have no colds or consumptions. It seemed to be rather unfortunate for Mary that just at the time she was taken away, her prospects were better than in the whole course of her life. She was to have been married, on her recovery, to one of the best men in the country, both as a good man, and one eminent in his profession. She suffered much, but was very patient, and died like a Christian; she wanted for nothing to make her comfortable. The neighbors were very kind and were much pleased with her. Amelia [his wife] has enjoyed very good health since she has been in the country, and is better pleased with Texas than I supposed she would be at first. Henry has also enjoyed very good health, and has grown very much.

After this, I shall give you some little idea of our country and prospects. Fortunately I came to Texas when I did, for the colonization law has been altered, which is not quite, in many respects, so advantageous to colonists as when I came. The law at present is thus: every colonist selects 177 acres of land, which he petitions the commissioner to have surveyed. It is then advertised and sold at auction. The lowest price is ten dollars, and the highest bidder gets the land. [*This law has been repealed.*] One would suppose, at home, that the man would be bid over, but it is not so: the people are very anxious to have neighbors, and do all in their power to induce them to come into the country. This new law does not interfere with the arrangements the government has made with the agents [*Empresarios*], to settle lands, so that perhaps for the length of a year, it may be possible still to secure a league or so, though, at the rate the population has increased for the last year, it cannot be possible for vacant lands to be on hand. I seriously do believe that my league of land will, in five years, be worth twenty thousand dollars. It is only twelve miles from the Bay, on the San Jacinto river, with a front of three miles and a half on the river, where there is never less than three and a half feet of water. Four fifths of it is covered with cedar, cypress, oak, and cane-brakes, which is the richest land in the world. The other fifth is prairie land, with beautiful little groves of oaks every quarter of a mile, containing, say from three to ten acres. This is the case in all the prairies in Texas, which have a most beautiful appearance. It is not so in the United States. Through the middle of the league is a running stream of water, about three times as large and deep as our brook in Roxbury. This is never dry, and has at all times sufficient water to carry a grist-mill. It is about a mile from the river, on the stream, just on the edge of the prairie, where I intend to build my house.

The prairie land is very rich; all you have to do is to put in your plough, and reap your crop. This is a decided advantage over new settlers in the United States, who have to clear their lands before they can make their crop, which is very expensive, and puts them back a year. We have had four vessels in the Bay within four weeks, two large schooners from New York, with emigrants full as they could stick; one schooner from Louisiana, with passengers; and a steamboat was here, a few days ago, from New Orleans, bound for the Brasos river, which is forty miles west of this. She is to run on that river, from the mouth to a place called Washington, about one hundred miles up. Should any person ask your advice, what part of Texas they should come to, both as regards health and opportunities to get themselves good land near the seaboard, which is a great consideration, I should advise them to come to Galveston Bay, and settle on the Trinity river, which is one of the finest rivers in Texas, and the best vacant lands.

Amelia is collecting for goods, which we are disposing of for what is considered the best property in Texas—cows and calves. She has already twenty head, and is taking them in daily for goods. The price in Texas for a cow and calf is ten dollars, so that, paying in goods, they cost her about five dollars. And, with one hundred head of cows in Texas, a man is considered independent, and so he is; for, if you sit down and calculate the increase, you will find it enormous. The steers they dispose of either to the merchants in the country, or, if they have large stocks, so that they can drive themselves, say from fifty to two hundred, they drive them through to New Orleans, which is 300 miles from here. The price of a yearling here is five dollars; three-year-old, 10, five-year-old, 15 dollars, payable in goods, on which we make from one to three or four hundred per cent. A five-year-old, in New Orleans, generally brings about thirty-five dollars. Takes twenty-one days to drive through, at an expense of four dollars twelve and a half cents a head, including all expenses for man and horses, if you have in your drove sixty head; if less, the expense is more in proportion; if a greater number, less. The calculation is, in Texas, that, allowing for loss of cattle by disease and other things, the increase is sixty per cent. a year: so that you can easily imagine what kind of property it is. All you have to do is to keep the calves up, and the cows come nightly to them; thus the cattle are kept perfectly gentle, and you have nothing to do. It is also better property for the reason, you have no trouble with them, not even to salt them; I mean to give them salt to eat, which has to be done in the States. But not so here, as the atmosphere is salt. It is Amelia's intention to have, before the year is out, one hundred head of cows. Thus she never can want, but must accumulate a large property. She will kill none, dispose of the male cattle when she has sufficient number to drive them to New

Orleans, and the heifers will so increase her stock, so that, in five years, she will have more stock than she will know what to do with. A man by the name of Taylor White, who came here about ten years ago with about thirty head, branded this year 2700 calves. Look at this! As he sold his beef cattle, he purchased cows, and by this means he increased his stock, until he has more now than he can hardly manage.

I disposed, as you will have learned, of my schooner. I lost money by her, in the long run. Should any of our friends send to New Orleans, this winter, any small schooner, which is very customary, for freight, small fishing vessels, drawing not more than five and a half feet of water, I will always give them freight for some part of our Bay. I lost all my trees which were put on board of the vessel. I cannot account for it, as we were only twenty-two days from Nantucket. Not one came up. Of my pigs, two of the sows I lost on Galveston Island; when I arrived there, I carried them on shore to feed; they fell into a well and were drowned. These were the two I had of Bennett, the butcher. The little beautiful Byfield sow, I bought together with the boar, I have daily expected an increase from to my stock. The sow is the handsomest creature I ever saw. Should there be a vessel from Boston bound to Galveston Bay, send me a Byfield boar and sow, (as I am not much pleased with my boar), or a sow with pigs. Brighton cattle fair is the place; any large seeds of pumpkins or squashes; also send any thing that yourself would wish in a new country. I cannot particularize, but do remember us. I should like very much a yearling bull of the short-horned Durham breed. He would make me a fortune in this country. Do not forget a box of trees and currant bushes, if an opportunity offers from Boston. If you look in the Courier and Enquirer of New York, you will see the vessels advertised for Galveston Bay, Texas: write always by them, some of you, for we have not heard by letter from home but once since we left; and I know that there is some mistake some way. *Always pay the postage on letters, or we can never get them.*

As this letter is a family one, and you will say, I suppose, a costly one too, I shall write all in it that I think will interest. John would like to know what amusements we have. Tell him we can kill a deer any time we please. The prairies are full of wild turkies: I kill them often from the door where I now sit. Fish, I can catch a mess in ten minutes from now. Oysters, I can jump into a boat any time and catch a mess in a few hours. The country is covered with wild ducks in winter. The ducks are of the same species as our yard ducks. Were I to give you a description of the numbers, you would hardly believe it, they are so thick. Opossums, rabbits, and gray squirrels, the woods are full of. In fact, there are as many amusements for a person who is fond of shooting, fishing or boating, as you will find in any country.

While I was in the store, in Boston, there were a great many remnants of cottons, and one thing and another, that were of very little use. They would be very acceptable to us here. You could put them in some old box in the shop until you have an opportunity to send them to New Orleans. I shall be in New Orleans in the course of a month, when I will write you. Should you, or any of our friends, desire to make us presents, send such things as stout cottons, and, if clothing, let them be stout and strong: fine goods are of no use in this country. Collect all the peach stones that are of a choice kind, and put in the box, when you send. I have sent in this an account against Mr. ——, which John said he could collect. If so, lay the money out in twilled cottons, such as we used for pockets when in Boston. Should you send any thing for me, direct them to the care of Messrs. J. W. Breedlove & Co., Orleans, with directions for them to keep them for me until I called for them. Put in all kinds of vegetable garden seeds (no flower seeds) that you can think of.

Some persons might ask if we are at peace with the Mexicans. We are: they are disposed to do all they can for the people, and they have a great opinion of Texas, They know well that we are at present able to defend ourselves from all the Mexicans in the world. It is calculated that, at present, we could centre at one place, in twelve days, over 5000 first rate riflemen, who could march from one end of Mexico to the other. We pay no duties or taxes of any kind, and we are not likely to, for some time. In fact, things are in a very promising state, and the people are accumulating property. All religions are tolerated, which is well for Texas. This is a new law, and gives much satisfaction to the people.

[*The above letter is, with Mr. Willson, the father's consent, to whom it was addressed, published at length. It contains that sort of practical information, which emigrants want, and does credit to the intelligence and enterprise of the writer, who, poor fellow, through fatigue and exposure in a voyage to New Orleans soon after, was cut off, and left his thrifty wife Amelia a widow, in the midst of all his prospects. That her sentiments, in her forlorn condition, with two young children, in a new country, in relation to it may be known, we have been permitted to extract the following, from her affectionate letter to her father in November following his death, which is all it contains in relation to her temporal concerns.*—Com.]

"I am advised to keep my land, and take out the title, as it will most likely be a fortune for my children. I shall have to pay for my league, but shall try to have a few cows and calves left, as, after a few years, they will support me and my children by their increase. At any rate, I shall find a home in Texas, if I do not find one at the north. I suppose I could stay here now, and make a good living, but I want to see my mother and sisters. William begged me so to do: you may look for me early in the spring. But I must say, after all my trouble, I have a great attachment to Texas, and shall most likely return here again, after a while."

Extract from the official Report to the Trustees, made by John T. Mason, Esq., of Detroit, who has for several years been employed in Mexico and Texas, as the Agent of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company.

New York, 28th Sept. 1834.

"But the most important act of the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, was that organizing Texas into a separate judicial district, a copy of which law I furnish you, and is published in the English language agreeably to one of its provisions.

"All the proceedings of the courts of Texas are required to be in English, and the right of trial by jury, in all cases, civil and criminal, is secured, which imparts to the code for Texas the security and safe-guards of the English law. This system is permanent, and will never be relinquished. Indeed, it was so satisfactory to the Mexican legislators, when explained to them, that they proposed to extend the same provisions to Coahuila at the next session.

"But to sum up the details of a long letter, I have to state that your rights are fully acknowledged by the federal and state authorities; there is no obstacle to the prosecution of your business of colonizing, and none need be anticipated. The political changes and contests in Mexico do not affect Texas more than they do the people of the United States. Besides, let whatever party succeed that may, no measures unfavorable to Texas will be adopted. President St. Anna is friendly to the colonists and to all foreigners.

"The way is open for doing all that your most sanguine wishes could have hoped, and the benefits to be derived from your position should be laid hold on vigorously, and without those chilling delays which destroy all business, and time and attention must be given to a concern so important. You have a beautiful district of country under your control; superior, in my estimation, to any part of Texas that I saw. It has a decided advantage in being on the borders of the United States; is salubrious, and affords every variety of cultivation. The improvements from the Sabine to the Trinity, on the travelled road, are remarkably good, and exhibit farms and dwellings that would be admired in any country. Subsistence is cheap for a new country, where constant emigration creates a demand for the surplus productions; but nature has done so much for him, that man has little effort to make in order to supply all his wants, and to be surrounded by abundance. There is no difficulty nor obstacle before you, and I apprehend none. By prompt action you will secure a rich harvest from those fertile fields."

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

Emigrants going to the grants, had better be provided with sufficient bread stuffs and groceries to last them for six or seven months.

The settler would do well to turn his little stock of money into Spanish dollars and doubloons. Although United States' bills are generally above par, yet there would be a difficulty in getting them changed, provided the settler were going inland. All Spanish silver money passes, and nothing will be lost in making use of it.

He should be provided with a passport.

A family should take the following medicines with them:

½ lb. calcined Magnesia and bottle, ...	$1	50
2 oz. Rhubarb Powder, ...	0	38
3 lbs. best Epsom Salts, 1s. 6d., ...	0	56
2 oz. Essence of Peppermint and vial, . . .	0	25
2 oz. of Laudanum and vial, ...	0	25
6 doz. Anti Billious Pills, ...	0	50
2 doz. Calomel and Jalap, ...	0	75
1 doz. Emetics, ...	0	50
2 pint bottles Castor Oil, ...	1	00
6 oz. Soap Liniment and vial, ...	0	50
3 oz. Hartshorn and vial, ...	0	31
2 oz. Spirits of Camphor and viol, ...	0	25
Box, ...	0	18
	$6	93

Emigrants should be well provided with necessary farming utensils, a wagon, comfortable clothing, principally of cotton stuff, a good rifle, and a strong dog. Seeds of useful plants and different grains must not be forgotten. It would be best to carry tents or sail cloth, for covering, until the house is built.

The settler who does not want to spend his money in luxuries, would find the following table of necessaries suffi-